

Checking Eligibility for Publicly Funded Health and Disability Services

Table 1: Categories of eligibility for *any* publicly funded health or disability service.

NB: Visitor and student permit holders who had been eligible since October 2003 are no longer eligible under the 2011 Eligibility Direction. They are no longer entitled to be enrolled unless they have become eligible under another criterion.

| Category | Eligibility for Publicly Funded Health and Disability Services | Proof of Eligibility |
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| New Zealand Citizen (including people from the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau) | NZ citizens are eligible for the full range of publicly funded health and disability services. | NZ passport OR NZ certificate of identity OR NZ birth certificate OR Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau birth certificate OR NZ certificate of citizenship OR Certified copy of a descent registration certificate OR social security benefit papers (except emergency benefit) AND two forms of supporting identity information, one with a photo (unless passport is provided). |
| New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holders | People who hold residence class visas are eligible for the full range of publicly funded health and disability services. NB: Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents are automatically issued resident visas on arrival in NZ, but their eligibility is dealt with in two sections below (ie. Full or limited eligibility) | Passport with resident visa OR Passport with permanent resident visa OR Social security benefit papers (except emergency benefit) AND two forms of supporting identity information, one with a photo (unless main proof is passport). If they became residents before December 2010, they will hold a residence permit. This is now called a residence class visa. |
| Australian citizen or permanent resident staying in NZ for two years or more. | Citizens of the Commonwealth of Australia and people holding a current permanent residence visa (includes a resident return visa) issued by the Government of Australia are eligible for the full range of publicly funded health and disability services IF they are able to demonstrate they have or intend to spend at least two consecutive years in New Zealand. | Australian passport, or other passport with Australian permanent resident/resident return visa AND Evidence that New Zealand has been/will be their principal place of residence for at least two years (e.g. employment, house purchase). The two years is counted from their arrival date in New Zealand. |
| Work visa holders in New Zealand for two years or more | A work visa holder whose visa or visas allow them to stay in New Zealand for at least two consecutive years is eligible for the full range of publicly funded health and disability services. | A current work visa that allows for a total continuous stay of at least 2 years OR A current work visa and other visa/permit held immediately prior that allows a consecutive 24 month stay. NB: if their visa was issued before December 2010, it will be called a work permit. |
| Interim visa holder | An interim visa holder who was eligible immediately before their interim visa started is eligible for publicly funded health and disability services. | Interim visa letter plus evidence of eligibility before the interim visa (eg. a letter from Immigration NZ with information on visas held prior to the interim visa, including time spent outside NZ). NB: An assessment of former eligibility will need to be made. |

| Category | Eligibility for Publicly Funded Health and Disability Services | Proof of Eligibility |
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| Refugees, protected persons and victims of people trafficking. | A person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has refugee or protected person status in New Zealand, OR - is in the process of having an application for refugee or protection status determined by Immigration NZ, OR - is in the process of having an appeal against refusal of refugee or protection status determined by the Immigration and Protection Tribunal OR - is a victim or suspected victim of a people trafficking offence. | Refugee travel document issued under the Passport Act 1992 OR Certificate of Identity (COI) AND Proof of refugee status/application such as a recent letter from Immigration NZ confirming that the person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has been recognised as a refugee OR - has a current application for refugee status OR A recent letter from the Immigration and Protection Tribunal confirming the person is appealing against a refusal of refugee status. If the COI states the person has residency status, the INZ letters are not necessary. OR A letter from the Police stating the person is a victim or suspected victim of people trafficking. |
| Students | <p>NZ Aid programme student A NZ Aid Programme student, studying in NZ, receiving Official Development Assistance funding AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - their partner OR - their dependant child, aged 17 years or younger. <p>Commonwealth Scholarship Holder A student studying in New Zealand and funded by a New Zealand university under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is eligible for publicly funded services. NB: Children of Commonwealth Scholarship holders under this scheme are NOT ELIGIBLE for publicly funded health services unless they meet the eligibility criteria in their own right.]</p> | Passport with a current NZ student visa AND Documents that indicate the person is a NZ Aid Programme student, or the partner or child of one. For partners and dependants: evidence of Official Development Assistance funding on the basis of relationship. |
| Children | A child under 18 who does not meet one of the above criteria, but whose parent, legal guardian, person applying to be their guardian or adoptive parent is eligible as a: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) New Zealand citizen b) New Zealand residence class visa holder c) an eligible Australian citizen/Australian permanent resident (as above – if staying 2 yrs) d) an eligible work visa holder e) an eligible interim visa holder f) a refugee or protected person or victim/suspected victim of people trafficking (as above) g) a NZ Aid programme student. | Evidence that the child is in the care and control of an eligible adult, who is their legal guardian, parent or in the process of adopting the child or becoming their legal guardian. (Birth certificate, adoption papers, guardianship papers or, for a child being adopted: CYF social worker confirmation or NZ Family Court confirmation). See relevant section for proof of adult's eligibility. |
| Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Scheme | A participant in the Ministry of Education Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Scheme is eligible for publicly funded health and disability services while participating in this scheme. Partners and children of foreign language teaching assistants are NOT ELIGIBLE for publicly funded health services unless they meet one of the other criteria. | Passport with a current work visa AND 'To whom it may concern' letter signed by International Languages Aotearoa NZ or Uniservices stating that the person is currently a teacher on this scheme. |

Eligible for a limited range of publicly funded health and disability services.

The following table outlines people who have limited eligibility for specific services. Check first if they meet any of the criteria in table 1 that would make them eligible to be considered for any publicly funded health and disability service.

| Category | Eligibility for Publicly Funded Health and Disability Services | Proof of Eligibility |
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| UK Citizen | <p>Under a Reciprocal Health Agreement a UK citizen temporarily in New Zealand is eligible for treatment (medical, hospital and related) on the same basis as a New Zealand citizen if he/she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is ordinarily resident in the UK - is on a temporary stay in NZ, and - requires medical treatment which in the opinion of a medical practitioner needs prompt attention for a condition that arose after arrival into New Zealand, OR became, or without treatment would have become acutely exacerbated after arrival. | <p>UK passport AND Proof that they usually reside in the UK (e.g. return ticket to the UK) AND Medical practitioner opinion that treatment is required as per conditions. Note: Check the person is not eligible for the full range of services under other criteria (e.g. eligible work visa holder, eligible permanent resident).</p> |
| Australian residents | <p>Under a reciprocal health agreement, an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or other Australian resident is eligible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - immediately necessary hospital services, maternity services and pharmaceuticals, as determined by the provider of medical treatment. | <p>Australian passport OR Other passport with Australian permanent resident visa/return resident visa OR Australian Medicare card OR proof of residing in Australia.</p> |
| Pregnant Women | <p>An otherwise ineligible pregnant partner of an eligible person is eligible for maternity-related services, on the basis that the child is likely to be born eligible. Should the partnership end during the pregnancy, but the child be born a New Zealand citizen, the maternity-related services continue to be funded.</p> <p>A Partner is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where the parties are legally married or in a civil union, the spouse or civil union partner, OR - a de facto partner within the meaning of that term in section 29 of the Interpretation Act 1999. <p>NB. This does not include partners of Commonwealth and Fellowship Plan students or Foreign Language Teaching Assistants.</p> | <p>Proof of partnership to eligible person (eg. marriage or civil union certificate, or a declaration with a de facto partner) AND Proof of the partner's eligibility (refer to relevant criteria). OR Evidence that the child is granted New Zealand citizenship by birth (ie. A NZ birth certificate).</p> |
| HIV infected pregnant women | <p>Any pregnant woman infected with HIV has free access to the following hospital services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blood tests to determine HIV viral load in the pregnant woman - a hospital-based lead maternity carer - a funded course of antiretroviral drug(s), noting that there is no entitlement to ongoing antiretroviral treatment for the mother - information around safe alternatives to Breastfeeding - a caesarean section and post caesarean section hospitalisation - postnatal hospital visits for the child to determine the HIV status of the child. | <p>Proof of being pregnant and infected with the HIV virus.</p> |

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| Infectious diseases | <p>People who have or who are suspected of having an infectious disease or a quarantinable disease are eligible for funded services relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the surveillance - the diagnosis - the treatment - follow-up services and - contact tracing services <p>of the person's infectious or quarantinable disease to the extent appropriate to manage the public health risk.</p> | Refer any enquiries to the local Medical Officer of Health. |
| Other compulsory public health services | <p>Services received under any of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 - the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act 1966 - the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003 - the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003. <p>are funded regardless of a person's citizenship or immigration status.</p> | Refer any enquiries to the area District Inspector or the Ministry of Health. |
| ACC | Everyone in New Zealand may be eligible for ACC services, visitors and residents alike. | Claim accepted by ACC. |
| WellChild/Tamariki Ora Services | All children are eligible for WellChild/Tamariki Ora services. | Not required. |
| Immunisations | All children are eligible for publicly funded immunisations, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. | Not required. |
| Prisoners | Prisoners are eligible for publicly funded health and disability services that are not provided within prison facilities, regardless of their immigration status. | Court documents indicating the person is on remand or awaiting sentencing. |
| Diplomats | Foreign diplomats and their family members are NOT ELIGIBLE for publicly funded health and disability services except for ACC . They will have health insurance. | Claim accepted by ACC. |