



# How We Can Help You



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

## Assistance for Kin Carers



We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent  
Ko ta mātou he whakamana tangata kia tū haumarū, kia tū kaha, kia tū motuhake

March 2014



# This session will cover:

- Carers
- Help for carers
- New payments for carers
- Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment
- Where to go for more information



# Kin carers play a valuable part in New Zealand society

At the end of March 2013, 8,614 carers were receiving Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit for 12,069 children.

- 96% of the 8,614 carers were receiving Unsupported Child's Benefit
- 70.5% of carers were aged between 40 and 64, while 12% were 65 and over
- A small study in 2006 suggests that almost half of carers are grandparents raising grandchildren.



# Help for Carers

## Benefits and Pensions

- Orphan's Benefit
- Unsupported Child's Benefit
- Other benefits (Jobseeker Support, Supported Living Payment, Sole Parent Support, etc)
- Pensions (New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension)



# Help for Carers

## Additional Assistance

- Childcare assistance
- Accommodation Supplement
- Disability Allowance
- Child Disability Allowance
- Community Services Card
- Help for hardship or emergencies
- Child Youth and Family



# Help for Carers

## Assistance from other agencies

- Community agencies
- Inland Revenue - Working for Families Tax Credits
  - Family tax credit
  - In-work tax credit
  - Minimum family tax credit
  - Parental tax credit

# New Payments for Carers

Two new payments are available for carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or the Unsupported Child's Benefit:

- Establishment Grant
- School and Year Start-Up Payment

An Extraordinary Care Fund will be introduced from July next year.



# Establishment Grant

- For carers granted Orphan's Benefit or the Unsupported Child's Benefit granted from 13 January
- \$350 for each child
- Only paid once – even if child leaves and comes back into care
- Home for Life Support Package clients not eligible
- No application required





# School and Year Start-up Payment

- Orphan's Benefit or the Unsupported Child's Benefit clients must apply in January/February each year
- Helps with beginning of year costs for preschool and school-aged children, eg stationery, uniforms
- Paid for each child with amounts based on the child's age
- It's easy to apply online



# School and Year Start-up Payment Rates

Age of child	2014	2015
Under 5 years	\$250	\$400
5-9 years	\$300	\$450
10-13 years	\$350	\$500
14+ years	\$400	\$550



# Extraordinary Care Fund

- Will be introduced from July 2014 for Orphan's Benefit or the Unsupported Child's Benefit carers
- Available for carers of children with difficulties significantly impacting on their development or who are showing promise
- Grants of up to \$2,000 Details of the fund still being worked through



# Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment

## Youth Payment

- a weekly payment to young people aged 16 or 17 who can't live with their parents or guardian and aren't supported by them or anyone else

## Young Parent Payment

- a weekly payment for 16 to 18 year old parents who have dependent children, and are in need of financial assistance.



# Where to go for more information

- Visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)
- Call Work and Income on **0800 559 009**
- Visit your local Work and Income or Senior Services Office

# ➤ Significant person

