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Kia ora koutou,

**Individualised Funding – funded by the Ministry of Health**

This letter/email is to let you know that we are extending the flexibility for Individualised Funding (IF) until 28 February 2021 that was implemented as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

While we are engaging with District Health Boards (DHBs) about these changes; these rules only apply if you have been allocated Individualised Funding through the Ministry of Health, not your DHB. Please contact your DHB for information about other supports if you have any further questions.

If you receive Individualised Funding through the Ministry of Health:

 **you must work within your current funding allocation;**

 you can continue to spend your Individualised Funding on any disability support or service that helps you to live your life or makes your life better. You can use the funding as long as it is reasonable and cost-effective and not funded through other funding options such as a Disability Allowance. You can talk to your IF Host or Coach about what is reasonable for you to buy and you can find out more information here: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/what-people-can-buy-disability-funding-ministry-health-purchasing-guidelines](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/what-people-can-buy-disability-funding-ministry-health-purchasing-guidelines).

 you cannot use your Individualised Funding for the following:

- paying family carers who are either a family member living with the disabled person or a parent or a spouse (see exception below)

- illegal activities, gambling or alcohol

- to pay for things that are not disability supports like rent/mortgage, food, personal debt, gifts, power, regular household items etc.

You can only pay a resident family member to provide household management, and personal care supports for those disabled people assessed as having ‘high’ or ‘very high’ needs. You cannot pay resident family members to provide respite.

As it is up to you to choose what support or services to buy, it’s your responsibility to make sure that the support or service is of good quality and covers all your requirements.

You will need to keep a simple record of what you have spent the money on and when you buy items, keep the receipts.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination service (NASC), IF Host or coach.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Adri Isbister
Deputy Director General
Disability**