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## SOCIAL SERVICES

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**WAIKATO**  
DISTRICT

### SOCIAL SERVICES

New Zealand residents are supported by a strong public welfare system.

New Zealand has always had a strong commitment to social welfare. For example, in 1898, New Zealand was the first country in the world to introduce pensions for older people.

Today, the welfare system provides permanent residents with a range of benefits including assistance if you lose your job or can't work because of illness or an accident, New Zealand Superannuation (our 'old age pension'), maternity leave when you have a baby, help with saving for retirement, and financial and practical assistance for the elderly.

You may not qualify for these benefits until you have been a resident for at least two years.

For full details about entitlements see:  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility)

Find out more: [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/money-tax/financial-assistance](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/money-tax/financial-assistance)

### ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION (ACC)

ACC supports people who have been injured by helping them get back to work and everyday life as soon as possible. ACC also works to help prevent injuries from happening in the first place.

For more see: [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz)

### PARENTAL LEAVE

Employees who are having a baby can apply for parental leave. If two spouses/partners assume the care of a child under six years that they intend to jointly adopt, they can nominate which of them is primarily eligible for parental leave.

You are eligible for parental leave if you have worked for the same employer for an average of at least 10 hours a week, and at least one hour in every week or 40 hours in every month, in the six or 12 months immediately before the baby's expected due date or the date you have assumed the care of a child you intend to adopt.

PARENTAL LEAVE OF

# 14 WEEKS

CONTINUOUS MAY START UP TO SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE EXPECTED DATE OF BIRTH OR ADOPTION

If you plan to take parental leave, you must write to your employer at least three months before your expected date of birth.

For more see: [www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/parental-leave](http://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/parental-leave)

## SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

### MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Social Development is all about helping to build successful individuals, and in turn building strong, healthy families and communities. The Ministry provides:

- care and protection of vulnerable children and young people
- employment, income support and superannuation services
- funding to community service providers
- social policy and advice to government
- student allowances and loans.

For more see: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd)

### CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY

Child, Youth and Family is the government agency that has legal powers to intervene to protect and help children who are being abused or neglected or who have problem behaviour.

For more see: [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz)

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Family and Community Services leads and co-ordinates services and programmes to support families.

For more see: [www.familyservices.govt.nz](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz)

### WORK AND INCOME

Work and Income provides income support and employment services throughout New Zealand. It offers a single point of contact for New Zealanders needing help to find a job, income support and in-work support.

For more see: [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

### STUDENTS, SENIORS AND INTEGRITY SERVICES

[www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/our-structure/service-delivery-cluster.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/our-structure/service-delivery-cluster.html)

### STUDYLINK

Administers Student Allowances, Student Loans and Unemployment Benefit Student Hardship.

For more see: [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

### NEW ZEALAND SUPERANNUATION

FORTNIGHTLY PAYMENT FOR PEOPLE AGED  
**65+**

To receive New Zealand Superannuation you must:

- be aged 65 or over
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- normally live in New Zealand at the time you apply.

You must also have lived in New Zealand for at least 10 years since you turned 20. Five of those years must be since you turned 50. Time spent overseas in certain countries and for certain reasons may be counted for New Zealand Superannuation.

For more see: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/nz-superannuation.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/nz-superannuation.html)

### SUPERGOLD CARD

A free discounts and concessions card available to New Zealand residents are aged 65 years or over, and those under 65 years receiving New Zealand Superannuation or the Veteran's Pension.

For more see: [www.supergold.govt.nz](http://www.supergold.govt.nz)

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Delivers services such as assessment and payment of pensions to people who come to New Zealand from overseas, and assists New Zealanders who leave the country to obtain benefits and pensions overseas. International Services is also involved in negotiating social security agreements with other countries.

For more see: [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

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