

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Social Security (Home Help Assistance) Amendment Bill

Member's Bill

Explanatory note

General policy statement

This Bill provides for home help assistance for families of multiple births (or adoptions).

In New Zealand, and worldwide, the number of multiple births is increasing. With greater use of IVF and other fertility treatments, this trend is likely to continue.

Present arrangements provide for 240 hours home help to be used within 12 months to parents of twins, provided the family have another child under the age of 5.

The level of home help assistance increases to 1560 hours home help to be used within 24 months to parents of triplets.

Hours of home help can be used for cleaning, cooking, laundry etc., and is currently set at \$17.38 per hour plus holiday pay (totalling \$18.77 per hour).

For families of higher order multiple births this represents an inequity that this Bill solves.

It extends the number of hours available to parents of quadruplets to 1940 hours (an increase of 380 hours).

It future-proofs support arrangements by providing for an additional 380 hours home help support for each additional child beyond quadruplets. This allows for increased support for quintuplets and higher order multiple births.

Finally, the Bill allows for the home help to be taken over 36 months in the case of quadruplets and higher order multiple births. This aligns the support with the start of 20 Hours Free available for Early Childhood Education.

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 is the Title clause.

Clause 2 is the commencement clause. It provides that the Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

Clause 3 identifies the Social Security Act 2018 as the Act being amended (the **principal Act**).

Part 1

Home help assistance

Clause 4 inserts *new subpart 12A* to Part 2 (Assistance) of the principal Act. It provides that a person is eligible for home care assistance if the person has a child under the aged of 5 years and gives birth to or adopts twins, or gives birth or adopts three or more children from the same pregnancy.

Clause 5 inserts *new Part 8A* to Schedule 4 (Rates of Benefits) of the principal Act. It provides for the maximum rates and payment to the provider of the home help assistance and maximum period of home help assistance for the beneficiary.

Part 2

Consequential amendments

Part 2 makes consequential amendments to the principal Act for the purpose of home help assistance.

Andrew Falloon

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Social Security (Home Help Assistance) Amendment Act **2019**.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day after the date it receives the Royal assent.

3 Principal Act

This Act amends the Social Security Act 2018 (the **principal Act**).

Part 1
Home help assistance

4 New subpart 12A of Part 2 inserted

After section 77, insert:

Subpart 12A—Home help assistance

77A Home help assistance: purpose

The purpose of home help assistance is to provide targeted financial assistance to certain people who require temporary part-time help to complete domestic tasks normally performed in their homes.

77B Home help assistance: eligibility

A person (**P**) is entitled to home help assistance if—

- (a) P or P's spouse or partner has a dependent child aged under 5 years and P or P's spouse or partner gives birth to or adopts 2 dependent children born from the same pregnancy;
- (b) P or P's spouse or partner gives birth to or adopts 3 or more dependent children born from the same pregnancy.

5 Schedule 4 amended (Rates of Benefits)

After Part 8, insert:

Part 8A

Home help assistance

Subpart 1—Maximum rates and payments for travel for provider of home help assistance

1	Hourly rate for a home helper	\$17.38 (and an additional 8% for holiday pay)
2	Travel costs from the home helper’s home (or other home help assignment) to the beneficiary’s home is the greater of—	<p>(a) 40 cents per kilometre for a maximum of 12 kilometres (or any greater distance approved in advance by MSD)</p> <p>(b) actual public transport costs</p>

Subpart 2—Maximum periods of home help assistance for multiple births

1	2 children from the same pregnancy (and has a dependent child aged under 5 years)	Up to 240 hours within a maximum period of 12 months after the children were born in, or first entered, the beneficiary’s home
2	3 children from the same pregnancy	Up to 1560 hours within a maximum period of 24 months after the children were born in, or first entered, the beneficiary’s home
3	4 children from the same pregnancy	Up to 1940 hours within a maximum period of 36 months after children were born in, or first entered, the beneficiary’s home; plus
4	More than 4 children from the same pregnancy	Up to 1940 hours for 4 children plus up to 380 hours per an additional child within a maximum period of 36 months after children were born in, or first entered, the beneficiary’s home

Part 2

Consequential amendments

6 Section 5 amended (Guide to this Act)

After section 5(2)(k), insert:

(ka) home help assistance:

7 Section 339 amended (Payment generally to, or on account of, beneficiary personally)

In section 339(2)(d), after “MSD must pay”, insert “home help assistance,”.

8 Section 367 amended (Preferred suppliers: determinations)

After section 367(2)(a), insert:

- (aa) to provide home help assistance to a beneficiary under **section 77B**:

9 Section 368 amended (Preferred suppliers: paying them disability allowance, special assistance, or advance payment)

- (1) In the heading of section 368, after “disallowance allowance,”, insert “home help assistance,”.

- (2) After section 368(1)(a)(i), insert:

(ia) the home help assistance payment under **section 77B**; or

- (3) In section 368(3), after “The amount of”, insert “the home help assistance under **section 77B**,”.

- (4) After section 368(4)(a), insert:

- (aa) the home help assistance payment under **section 77B**; or

10 Schedule 2 amended (Dictionary)

In Schedule 2, in the example in the definition of **benefit**, after the item “child-care assistance”, insert:

Home help assistance