

Vote Disability Support Services

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister for Disability Issues (M23)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Ministry of Social Development (A25)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Minister for Social Development and Employment

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Disability-related Legal Expenses (M23) (A25) This appropriation is limited to funding the defence and settlement of disability-related legal claims against the Crown.	500	12,597	13,097
Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses	500	12,597	13,097
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Disability Support Services MCA (M23) (A25) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to deliver disability support services to improve outcomes for eligible disabled people by providing care or support, promoting their inclusion and participation in society and their independence.	2,769,178	(212,296)	2,556,882
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Administering and developing disability support services</i> This category is limited to commissioning and monitoring service provision; providing data and evidence services to better inform government decision-making; providing policy advice and support to the Minister to discharge their portfolio responsibilities.	37,876	(11,378)	26,498
<i>Connecting people with supports and communities</i> This category is limited to the provision, purchase and support of services connecting disabled people and their families to supports, information and their communities.	14,713	(663)	14,050
<i>Employing family members to provide care</i> This category is limited to the employment of specific family members to provide care to their disabled relatives.	-	170	170
<i>Sustainability of Disability Support Services</i> This category is limited to activities supporting the sustainability of Disability Support Services.	3,500	7,305	10,805
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Community-based support services</i> This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people living in a community-based setting.	1,002,556	(48,667)	953,889
<i>Connecting and strengthening disability communities</i> This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports that connect disabled people and their families to supports and information and strengthen their communities.	78,345	(14,398)	63,947
<i>Early intervention support services</i> This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people who are early in life, in life transitions, or in vulnerable situations.	58,981	4,418	63,399
<i>Environmental support services</i> This category is limited to the provision and purchase of environmental support services for disabled people.	265,501	(24,006)	241,495

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
<i>High and Complex Framework Services</i> This category is limited to forensic service coordination and services for people with an intellectual disability who are in hospital or community secure or supervised care.	95,249	(289)	94,960
<i>Residential-based support services</i> This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people living in a residential-based setting.	1,210,207	(125,192)	1,085,015
<i>Non-Departmental Other Expenses</i> <i>Community Capacity and Support</i> This category is limited to providing financial assistance towards building capacity and support within client communities.	2,250	404	2,654
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	2,769,178	(212,296)	2,556,882
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	2,769,678	(199,699)	2,569,979

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2025/26				
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates			Total \$000
		Departmental Transactions \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions \$000	Total Transactions \$000	
Appropriations					
Output Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	N/A	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	500	-	12,597	12,597	13,097
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	N/A	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)					
<i>Output Expenses</i>	2,766,928	(4,566)	(208,134)	(212,700)	2,554,228
<i>Other Expenses</i>	2,250	-	404	404	2,654
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	N/A	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	2,769,678	(4,566)	(195,133)	(199,699)	2,569,979
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts					
Tax Revenue	-	N/A	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	N/A	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	N/A	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	N/A	-	-	-

Part 3 - Details of Non-Departmental Appropriations

3.4 - Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Disability-related Legal Expenses (M23) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding the defence and settlement of disability-related legal claims against the Crown.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted, as the category is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown Entity; and, under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the PFA, as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative as this category is solely for funding the defence and settlement of disability-related legal claims against the Crown. Also, this is a demand-driven transactional based category.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The appropriation increased by \$12.597 million to \$13.097 million for 2025/26 due to:

- an increase of \$10 million due to an expense transfer to support potential costs arising from a recent Supreme Court Decision, and
- an increase of \$2.597 million due to the transfer of underspends from 2024/25 which does not reoccur in outyears.

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Disability Support Services (M23) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to deliver disability support services to improve outcomes for eligible disabled people by providing care or support, promoting their inclusion and participation in society and their independence.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Administering and developing disability support services

This category is limited to commissioning and monitoring service provision; providing data and evidence services to better inform government decision-making; providing policy advice and support to the Minister to discharge their portfolio responsibilities.

Connecting people with supports and communities

This category is limited to the provision, purchase and support of services connecting disabled people and their families to supports, information and their communities.

Employing family members to provide care

This category is limited to the employment of specific family members to provide care to their disabled relatives.

Sustainability of Disability Support Services

This category is limited to activities supporting the sustainability of Disability Support Services.

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Community-based support services

This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people living in a community-based setting.

Connecting and strengthening disability communities

This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports that connect disabled people and their families to supports and information and strengthen their communities.

Early intervention support services

This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people who are early in life, in life transitions, or in vulnerable situations.

Environmental support services

This category is limited to the provision and purchase of environmental support services for disabled people.

High and Complex Framework Services

This category is limited to forensic service coordination and services for people with an intellectual disability who are in hospital or community secure or supervised care.

Residential-based support services

This category is limited to the provision and purchase of services and supports for disabled people living in a residential-based setting.

Non-Departmental Other Expenses**Community Capacity and Support**

This category is limited to providing financial assistance towards building capacity and support within client communities.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	2,769,178	(212,296)	2,556,882
Departmental Output Expenses			
Administering and developing disability support services	37,876	(11,378)	26,498
Connecting people with supports and communities	14,713	(663)	14,050
Employing family members to provide care	-	170	170
Sustainability of Disability Support Services	3,500	7,305	10,805
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Community-based support services	1,002,556	(48,667)	953,889
Connecting and strengthening disability communities	78,345	(14,398)	63,947
Early intervention support services	58,981	4,418	63,399
Environmental support services	265,501	(24,006)	241,495
High and Complex Framework Services	95,249	(289)	94,960
Residential-based support services	1,210,207	(125,192)	1,085,015
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Community Capacity and Support	2,250	404	2,654
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	56,089	(4,566)	51,523
Administering and developing disability support services	37,876	(11,378)	26,498
Connecting people with supports and communities	14,713	(663)	14,050
Employing family members to provide care	-	170	170
Sustainability of Disability Support Services	3,500	7,305	10,805

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Departmental Output Expenses			
Employing family members to provide care			
This category is intended to support the employment of specifically-determined family members to provide care to their disabled relatives.			
The percentage of specifically-determined family members providing care to their disabled relatives who are paid accurately and within the timeframes outlined in their employment agreement with MSD will be no less than (see Disclosure 1)	New measure	100%	100%

Disclosure 1 - A measure has been added to provide performance information for this new category established in 2025/26. Measuring the accuracy and timeliness of paying specifically-determined family members providing care to their disabled relatives was chosen as the most appropriate type of measure to cover the intention of the funding.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The appropriation decreased by \$212.296 million to \$2,556.882 million for 2025/26 due to:

- a decrease of \$200 million due to the return of underspends
- a decrease of \$175.882 million due to an expense transfer to 2026/27 to support DSS's long-term financial sustainability
- a decrease of \$20 million due to an expense transfer to the Disability-related Legal Expenses appropriation for potential costs arising from a recent Supreme Court decision
- a decrease of \$4.811 million due to the rephasing of information technology transformation costs
- a decrease of \$2.726 million due to a transfer of sleepover costs in mental health facilities to Vote Health, and
- a decrease of \$239,000 due to the transfer of a disability information contract to Whaikaha.

These are partially offset by an increase of \$191.362 million due to an expense transfer from 2024/25 to help meet cost pressures for disability support services.