



24 MAY 2019

Donna Curle

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Tēnā koe Ms Curle

Thank you for your information request dated 6 May 2019 submitted through the FYI website, regarding the types of assistance available to solo mothers through Work and Income.

Work and Income wants to ensure that everyone who approaches them receives the right help and support for their particular situation.

Sole Parent Support (SPS) is a main benefit available to sole parents who meet the eligibility criteria. A sole parent will have work preparation obligations if they have a youngest dependent child aged under three years old, part-time work obligations if they have a youngest dependent child aged between three and 13 years, and full-time work obligations once the child turns 14 years of age. You can read more information about SPS here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/sole-parent-support.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/sole-parent-support.html).

Sole parents may also be eligible for a Family Tax Credit, which is assistance that is also available to working families. The amount of Family Tax Credit a family receives will vary depending on their level of income and the number and age of their dependent children. The payment is administered through the Inland Revenue Department and is intended to assist with the costs of raising a family. You can read more about Family Tax Credits here: [www.ird.govt.nz/topics/working-for-families](http://www.ird.govt.nz/topics/working-for-families).

A sole parent also has to be over the age of 20 before being eligible for SPS. Those who are under 20, and have a child, are able to get support from Ministry funded Youth Service providers. These community providers give wrap-around support to teen parents (and other young people) by enrolling them in programmes such as budgeting and parenting courses. They are also encouraged to participate in education, training or work-based learning to gain skills which will help them towards a future job, and ultimately an independent future. To keep receiving their payments, the teen parent has to meet youth activity obligations. You can find more information about the Youth Service here: [www.youthservice.govt.nz](http://www.youthservice.govt.nz).

For your information, anyone can test their eligibility for additional assistance through Work and Income. This includes the Accommodation Supplement to help with any on-going housing costs and Temporary Additional Support for support with essential living costs. You can read more about the types of additional assistance that Work and Income offer here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html).

The support Work and Income provides sole parents is available to people depending on their circumstances. An eligibility guide that makes it easier for all New Zealanders to see what support they may be able to get is available on the Work and Income website. Should you, or someone you know require support from Work and Income, I encourage you to check what you may be eligible for by answering the questions at the following webpage: <https://check.msd.govt.nz/>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is helpful.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'EB' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Elisabeth Brunt  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services