

More help from the Ministry of Health

- An additional \$51.11 (including GST) is available for children who need adult size frames.
- You may be able to get this help to pay for glasses or repairs if your child's vision is changing very quickly or if he or she has amblyopia (lazy eye) or strabismus (squint).
- Talk to your local optometrist for more information about this extra funding.



If at any time you have urgent concerns about your child's vision or eyes, see your doctor, optometrist or go to your local hospital.

For more information

Enable
NEW ZEALAND

Freephone: 0800 17 1981

Email: enable@enable.co.nz

Web: www.weka.net.nz

This brochure is available in Māori, Cook Island Māori, Samoan, Tongan and New Zealand Sign Language at:
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/disability>

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New Zealand Government

Subsidy for glasses and vision tests

(Spectacles Subsidy)

for children 15 years and under



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Health and Disability National
Services Directorate

What does the subsidy include?

The Spectacles Subsidy can help with the costs of your child's:

- vision test
- glasses (frames and lenses or repairs) or eye patches.
- The most that can be paid is usually \$287.50 (including GST).
- The optometrist or ophthalmologist will fill out a form with your help, and send it with their bill to Enable New Zealand. You will need to pay any balance.
- The subsidy is available again after 12 months, if needed, for each child in your family who can get the subsidy.
- For more information, call Enable New Zealand on 0800 17 1981.



Who can get the Spectacles Subsidy?

- Any of your children, aged 15 or under,
- BUT ONLY IF you or your child has a current *Community Services Card* or a *High Use Health Card*.

If you can't get the subsidy talk to your optometrist, doctor or school about other help that may be available.

Other options may include:

- recoverable loans from Work and Income,
- support from local community groups.



How to get help for your child

Make an appointment for your child's vision to be tested by an optometrist or ophthalmologist OR at the hospital.

Optometrists or ophthalmologists

- Check the Yellow Pages to choose a local optometrist.
- The front section of your phone book has numbers for ophthalmologists.
- When you make the appointment, check whether the optometrist or ophthalmologist can apply for the subsidy.
- Check the cost of the vision test as this is included as part of the subsidy.

Hospital appointments

- You may be able to get your child's vision tested at your local hospital. The number for the hospital is in the front of your phone book.
- There may be a waiting list for an appointment.

If your child needs glasses you will still need to go to an optometrist or dispensing optician to get these. You cannot get glasses from the hospital.