GREEN LAWNS & GARDENS

Help with lawn mowing costs

Information for retirees and anyone whose health or mobility makes lawn care difficult. Serving Waipapa, Kerikeri and surrounding areas.

Enjoy your garden with a little help. Work and Income may help pay for lawn mowing through Disability Allowance. If you receive NZ Super, you may still qualify if your total weekly income before tax is below the limit shown below and you meet the other requirements. For couples, your combined income is assessed. This guide explains what to ask about; Work and Income decides your entitlement.

Who may qualify

If an ongoing health condition or disability means you can no longer manage your lawns yourself, help may be available. Start with a friendly chat with Ronda, who can explain the next steps and help wherever possible. Your doctor or nurse practitioner completes the medical part of the application to explain why you need help with mowing. The condition usually needs to be expected to last at least six months; different rules can apply for terminal illness.

Income and available help

For people receiving NZ Super, or not receiving a main benefit, the published weekly income limits before tax are:

Household	Weekly income before tax
Single adult aged 18 or over	$870.00
Couple combined income	$1,295.11

NZ Super, wages, investment income and rental profits can count. Owning your home or having savings does not automatically rule you out; income from assets matters. Ask Work and Income to assess your circumstances.

Up to $82.85 a week may be available across all approved disability costs. This is not a separate lawn-mowing allowance or a promise to cover the full bill. Other approved costs may already use some or all of the allowance.

What mowing costs can be considered

The work must be for your home, directly related to your disability, additional and ongoing. Quotes, invoices or receipts can support the cost. Price and mowing frequency must be reasonable for the season. Costs already included in rent or standard retirement-village fees need checking.

NZ Super, extra income and assets

How much extra income can you have?

Receiving NZ Super does not prevent you from qualifying for Disability Allowance. The table shows the extra income that would bring you to the income limit, using standard NZ Super rates from 1 April 2026. **All figures are weekly and before tax.**

Your situation	NZ Super	Total income limit	Extra income to reach limit
Single, living alone	$647.37	$870.00	$222.63
Single, sharing accommodation	$595.57	$870.00	$274.43
Couple, both receiving NZ Super (combined)	$984.28	$1,295.11	$310.83
Couple, only one receiving NZ Super	$492.14	$1,295.11	$802.97

Keep total income below the limit. These amounts are calculated as the income limit minus gross NZ Super; they are not guaranteed earnings entitlements. For couples, count both partners' other income together. In the last row, the other partner's wages, benefit or pension also use this allowance for extra income.

Count wages, interest, investment income and rental profits together. Use NZ Super before tax, not the amount arriving in your bank account. Overseas pensions, non-standard NZ Super rates or other income can change the calculation. Work and Income makes the final assessment.

How much can you have in assets?

Disability Allowance has no asset-value limit. There is no fixed maximum amount of savings or property you may own for this payment. Owning your home, a car, savings or investments does not by itself rule you out.

Income from assets still matters. Interest on savings and term deposits, dividends and rental profits count towards your income limit. Tell Work and Income about income-producing assets, or assets that could produce income, so they can assess your circumstances.

Other help, such as Accommodation Supplement or Temporary Additional Support, has different rules and may have an asset test. The no-asset-limit rule above is specifically for Disability Allowance.

Official sources and calculation notes

NZ Super rates and Disability Allowance limits - 1 April 2026

Disability Allowance income and asset reporting

Income counted for Disability Allowance

Extra-income figures are our arithmetic using the official rates, not separately published Work and Income thresholds. Health-related eligibility and approved costs must also be assessed. Rates and rules may change. Updated 15/11/2026.

How to apply and who to contact

1. Call Work and Income. Ask about Disability Allowance for lawn mowing. If you already receive it, ask whether mowing can be added. Ask what documents you need.

Age 65 and over: 0800 552 002
Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
General enquiries: 0800 559 009
Monday to Friday, 7 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm.

2. Ask Ronda for a quote. Call or text 021 0831 8816. We can discuss your lawns and provide a written quote. Ronda will also be happy to help you with your application wherever possible. Work and Income will assess and approve any funding.

3. Contact your usual GP practice. Ask your doctor or nurse practitioner to complete the Disability Allowance medical certificate, explaining why you need help with mowing.

4. Submit your application. Supply the certificate, quote and requested income, identity and bank information. Ask about paper forms if you prefer. Contact Work and Income promptly: assistance may start from first contact if you complete the application within 20 working days.

5. Confirm the outcome before relying on funding. The allowance is normally paid to you, and you pay your lawn-care provider. Keep invoices and report changes in costs.

Your quick checklist

Have ready: your client number if known; details of your health-related difficulty; your household income; any existing Disability Allowance; and Ronda's quote. Keep medical and financial documents for your practitioner and Work and Income. We only need the details needed to quote and arrange the work.

If you do not qualify, ask Work and Income whether Temporary Additional Support could help. It has a separate financial assessment, including assets. Some mowing costs can be considered when Disability Allowance is unavailable.

Official websites and application links

Disability Allowance information and application forms

Official rules for gardening and lawn mowing

Rates and income limits from 1 April 2026

Income included in the assessment

Disability Allowance income and asset reporting

MSD contact numbers and opening hours

Temporary Additional Support lawn-mowing rules

Online account: my.msd.govt.nz | Eligibility checker: check.msd.govt.nz

Links are clickable. For printed copies, visit workandincome.govt.nz and search “Disability Allowance”, or call the numbers above. Rates and rules may change. Green Lawns & Gardens is an independent lawn-care business and does not approve funding.