

New Social Security Act 2018 - Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

- The Social Security Act 2018 comes into effect on 26 November. It replaces the Social Security Act 1964.
- The new Act won't change the amount and conditions of people's benefits and entitlements.
- The Act will introduce some new words such as:
 - 'health condition' instead of 'illness, sickness and medical condition'
 - 'everyday functions' instead of 'normal functions'.These two changes are aimed at making our language more inclusive.

Nurse Practitioners can provide medical information for wider range of MSD services

From 26 November 2018:

1. Nurse Practitioners will be able to provide medical information to support applications and reviews of:
 - Childcare Assistance
 - Child Disability Allowance
 - Disability Allowance
 - Jobseeker Support on the ground of health condition, injury or disability
 - Supported Living Payment on the grounds of being permanently and severely restricted in the capacity for work because of a health condition, injury or disability or being totally blind
 - Supported Living Payment on the grounds of caring for a person who requires full-time care and attention who would otherwise require hospital care, rest home care or residential disability care or equivalent care.
2. People applying for a Special Needs Grant for health travel costs or laser therapy for the removal of birthmarks can have the following confirmed by a Nurse Practitioner:
 - that a referral to a secondary health service has been made
 - the person's health condition
 - the essential need arising from the person's health condition
 - the cost of the person's essential need.
3. To support clients to meet their social obligations, MSD will recognise that Nurse Practitioners:
 - are primary health care providers
 - provide Well Child/Tamariki Ora core checks.
4. Nurse practitioners will be able to apply to become Designated Health Practitioners (previously Designated Doctors).