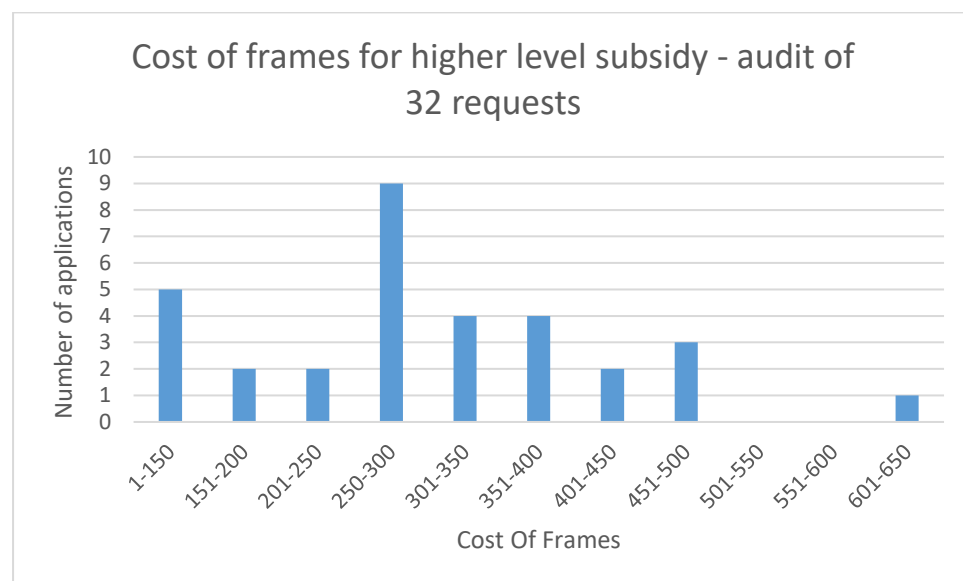


## **Children's Spectacle Subsidy update**

This communication is important to you. Please ensure you read this and pass on to anyone in your organisation who may need to know.

### **Higher Level Subsidy- Spectacle Frames**

Costs associated with the children's spectacle subsidy are increasing. This is predominately within the higher level subsidy. A recent audit of requests has demonstrated there has been a noticeable increase in the purchasing of high cost frames. This has significantly increased spending and is impacting on the budget. The average cost per client has increased. Due to this increase in spending, an audit was completed of 32 higher level subsidy frame requests. The costs of frames varied from \$120 - \$617



The average costs for frames for higher level subsidy claims are \$166 for child frames and \$215 for adult frames. Claims in excess of \$250 will now require further information.

Enable New Zealand is concerned about the cost of excessively priced frames and expects greater justification of frames costing above \$250 in the rationale field of RTL in the future. We will be monitoring this information closely over the next few months. If there is no change or the cost of frames is not fully and robustly rationalised we may need to consider further changes, including a cap on frame costs for the higher level subsidy.

The budget is a defined amount, and collectively we need to ensure that the funds are allocated fairly and equitably to ensure those in need are not disadvantaged.

What you can do to help manage spend?

- Please ensure that the most cost effective solution is being prescribed at all times.
- Please provide clinical reasoning for the higher cost frames (i.e. any child or adult frame over \$250).

# REMINDER

Following our audit we identified areas where Ministry of Health (MOH) policy is not being followed:

## **Sunglasses**

- Enable New Zealand are receiving requests for sunglasses and tinted lenses. Under MOH criteria sunglasses of any kind are excluded. Please refer Section 3.2 Page 4 of the manual. If you would like to apply for exceptional circumstances for tinted lenses please contact us by email ( SpecsEnquiries@enable.co.nz) and outline your clinical rationale for this request before you submit an online application.

**A second pair of glasses are not provided through either subsidy.**

## **Contact details**

Enable New Zealand are getting bounce back responses with some email addresses. It is the responsibility of the EMS Assessor to ensure all details on their EMS Assessor account are accurate and up to date including:

- Contact details – especially current email addresses
- Employer/supervisor details
- Categories of assessment

Please check your details are correct and update your EMS account when there are any changes.

Thank you

Rachel Tatham  
Service manager – Professional Services