

Equipment and Modification Services (EMS)

**The demand for equipment exceeds
the available funding**

3 September 2018

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) funds equipment and modification services that are assessed as meeting the essential needs of a person with a disability and that support their independence and safety in the most cost-effective way.

In the last financial year (2017/18) the demand for health and disability support services has consistently exceeded the available funding. The EMS Providers, *accessible* and Enable New Zealand, have been unable to meet your requests within their allocated budgets. The increase in cost last year has considerably increased which has resulted in a significant overspend against the EMS budget allocation. The key driver of the overspend is related to the cost of equipment solutions being requested rather than an increase in client numbers.

This overspend is not sustainable moving forward into 2018/19. The Ministry has capped the annual amount of funding for all the equipment and modifications that could support disabled people.

EMS Assessors must consider using equipment from the Band 1, and Band 2 and 3 lists prior to accessing more complex non-list equipment. The equipment on these lists has been procured to cover the majority of disability related needs, the most cost effective equipment solution, and is generally likely to be able to be reissued and is readily available.

Costs for the first two months already exceed the budget significantly. If costs continue to grow consideration will need to be given to introducing additional ways of ensuring spend remains within the available EMS budget.

By choosing cost effective solutions the budget will spread further ensuring that as many disabled people as possible have access to funding that will support them in their daily lives.

The EMS Advisors are available to support you in the consideration and selection of the most cost effective and appropriate solutions.



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