ESS Application Process

Referral
If you need equipment or housing modifications you can
- contact an assessment service directly, or
- request a referral from your GP or Needs Assessment Service Coordination (NASC) agency to a specialised assessment service, or
- contact an equipment supplier if you wish to purchase privately.

Assessment
A specialised assessor will carry out an assessment with you to determine the type of equipment or modification required.
- If you wish to make an application for MOH/ESS funding for the equipment or modification the assessor will help determine whether you are eligible for funding.
- The assessor completes an application.

Application
Your application will be sent to the funding manager ('*access*able') by the assessor. Your application will be prioritised according to how urgently you require the equipment or modification and the risks associated with not having it.
- At this time approval will be given to go ahead and trial equipment from refurbished stock or supplier trial equipment if needed.
- For housing modifications over $7900 income and asset testing is conducted through Work & Income.

Application Approved/Supply of Equipment or Modifications
Standard or common equipment can often be provided within 1-2 days. Applications with a high priority rating are processed and equipment supplied within 4 weeks

Applications with a lower priority rating will be added to a waiting list and equipment supplied when funding is available.

Where do I find an assessment service?
Specialised assessors, typically health professionals such as Occupational Therapists & Physiotherapists, can be contacted through hospitals, community health services, private practice, specialised assessment services (such as wheelchair assessment), and Non-Government Organizations (such as RNZFB, Deaf Association NZ, Talklink). For a hearing aid assessment, people must contact an Audiologist who is a member of the NZ Audiological Society (NZAS)

Eligibility
To be eligible for MOH funding of equipment or housing modifications you must meet
- the MOH definition of disability,
- criteria regarding residency in NZ,
- criteria regarding cause of impairment (i.e. not ACC)
- criteria regarding the specific equipment/modification.

Your assessor will determine if you meet the MOH criteria, and advise you of your options.

Ineligibility/Application Declined
If you are ineligible for MOH funding or your application is declined a review of the decision or a second assessment can be requested. Alternatively, you may meet the criteria for funding from a different Government organization (i.e. ACC, Education), or through organisations such as Workbridge or the NZ Lottery Grants Board.

Ministry of Health Definition of Disability
A person with a disability is someone who has been assessed as having a physical, intellectual or sensory disability (or a combination of these) that is likely to continue for a minimum of six months and result in a reduction of independent function to the extent that ongoing support is required.