



We run a series of informative sessions for carers who are looking after a family member or friend with a serious illness at home.

It's called the Kowhai Programme.

For the latest programme, or more info, visit our website, or contact us.

carer support &
respite care



**INFORMATION ON THE
CARER SUPPORT SCHEME**

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News, updates & events
otagohospice.co.nz

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WHAT IS CARER SUPPORT?

It is a scheme funded by the Ministry of Health to allow a person who is a family member providing care for an ill person, to pay for alternative care for periods of time. This allows the carer to take a short break from these responsibilities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Not everyone is eligible for Carer Support – the Ministry of Health makes the decision about this.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

- * Your family member may choose to pay somebody else to provide care whilst you take a break from carer tasks.
- * Your family member may choose to spend some time in one of the rest homes that hold a Ministry of Health contract to provide Respite Care. You will need to discuss this with a Social Worker or Needs Assessor to work out which place would be best for your situation. If you choose to go to a facility that does not hold a Ministry contract, the facility may charge you for the care they provide.

Specialist Respite Care: Alternatively, nursing or medical staff may assess your family member as needing to have specialist respite care provided by the hospice.

The hospice is classed as a specialist palliative care facility and provides respite care to people who have needs that cannot be met by a rest home or other carers at home.

If the staff believe this situation applies to you or your family member, they will discuss this with you and arrange for you to see a Social Worker so they can help you apply for Carer Support.



For more information please ask to see the Social Worker at the Hospice by telephone 03 473 6005.

THE CLAIM PROCESS

How does the Claim Process work?

If the hospice provides Respite Care, the Carer Support that you are entitled to will be claimed by the hospice to pay for the person's care. They will discuss this with you and your family.

If another facility such as a rest home provides care, they will make a claim to the Ministry of Health for Carer Support to pay for the person's care.

Carer Support Registration Form

This form is supplied to you by the Hospice Social Worker on your first respite admission, and you will be assisted to complete it.

It requires your full details, a medical assessment by the doctor and your full time carer's details, including date of birth and hospital number (if available).

It then needs to be signed by you, or your representative.

If you have already completed this form with Needs Assessment and Serviced Coordination Service (NASC), please bring it with you on your first period of respite.

Authority to Claim

Your full time carer will also be given a form to sign giving authority for the Hospice to claim reimbursement from the Ministry of Health for each period of respite provided by the Hospice.

Carer Support Claim Form

Once the registration form is received by the Ministry of Health, they will send you a claim form after each respite period, which needs to be signed by you and either sent direct to the Hospice, or brought with you on each subsequent respite admission.