

## How do I claim the spectacle subsidy?

To claim the subsidy you first need to have your child's vision assessed by a vision professional who is registered with Enable New Zealand.

If your child is eligible for the subsidy, your optometrist or ophthalmologist will submit a request for the subsidy to us, on your behalf.

Once Enable New Zealand has received your subsidy request, the approved subsidy will be paid directly to the optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Anything over the threshold amount available will need to be paid directly by you to the optometrist or ophthalmologist. You can also choose to pay more for additional features, for example higher cost frames.



## Want to know more?

Enable New Zealand supports disabled people and their whānau to live everyday lives in their communities.

For more information about the children's spectacle subsidy, including Whaikaha funding criteria, scan the QR code below.



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## Children's spectacle subsidy





## **Enable New Zealand manages the children's spectacle subsidy on behalf of Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People**

### **Who can get the spectacle subsidy?**

A child or young person who is 15 years of age or under, provided:

- the parent/guardian or child has a valid community services card or
- the child has a current High Use Health Card.

There are also clinical guidelines your child will need to meet. Your optometrist or ophthalmologist will discuss these guidelines with you during your appointment.

If your child does not meet the clinical guidelines, your optometrist or ophthalmologist may apply to Enable New Zealand for a review of your child's circumstances.

### **How much can I get?**

The total subsidy amount available each year for your child until they turn 16 is \$287.50 including GST.

Of the \$287.50, a maximum of \$138.00 including GST can be used toward frames.

Additional funding of \$51.11 including GST is available if your child requires adult-size frames.

Your child's subsidy year will start from the date that the first examination appointment occurred with an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. This date will become your child's anniversary date.

It is important to note if you do not use the full entitlement available, the remaining balance is not able to be accumulated for the following year. The spectacle subsidy cannot be claimed in advance.

### **Complex vision needs**

A higher level subsidy is also available for children and young people with more complex vision needs.

More complex vision needs means that the examining ophthalmologist or optometrist has confirmed that the child or young person has rapidly progressing myopia and requires assessment six monthly, and possible six monthly modification to spectacles, or has amblyopia or strabismus and requires more extensive intervention.

### **What can you get with it?**

The spectacle subsidy can be used for these items:

- eye examination
- spectacles (frames and lenses)
- eye patches and/or
- repairs (excludes complex vision solutions)

