

Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill

Government Bill

As reported from the Social Services and Community Committee

Commentary

Recommendation

The Social Services and Community Committee has examined the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill and recommends by majority that it be passed. We recommend all amendments by majority.

Introduction

The Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill would amend the Social Security Act 2018 to implement two initiatives announced in Budget 2025 aimed at targeting welfare assistance. Changes in the bill aim to work towards the Government’s objective to improve fiscal sustainability in the welfare system by targeting financial assistance to those most in need of support.

Part 1 of the bill would tighten the eligibility criteria for jobseeker support and the equivalent emergency benefit for young people aged 18 and 19 (and, in certain situations, those aged 16 and 17). It would introduce a parental assistance test (called a “parental income requirement” in the bill) to determine whether a young person is eligible for assistance. They would be eligible if their parents earn at, or below, the parental income limit, or if they cannot reasonably be expected to rely on their parents for financial support. The overall objective is to reduce long-term benefit dependency for young people and target assistance to young people who have no other resources to rely on.

Part 2 of the bill would raise the entry threshold for the accommodation supplement for some homeowners from 30 to 40 percent of the relevant base rate.¹ Because people now spend a larger proportion of their income on housing than they did when the entry thresholds were set in 1993, the bill proposes that the homeowner entry threshold reflect these higher housing costs. This change is intended to ensure that the

accommodation supplement targets homeowners whose housing costs are high relative to their income and assets.

Legislative scrutiny

As part of our consideration of the bill, we have examined its consistency with principles of legislative quality. We have no issues regarding the legislation's design to bring to the attention of the House.

Proposed amendments

This commentary covers the main amendments we recommend to the bill as introduced. They all relate to the jobseeker support initiative, and aim to ensure that the bill is clear and works as intended. We do not propose any changes to the bill in relation to the accommodation supplement initiative. We do not discuss every minor or technical amendment.

Parental income requirement: exception for spouse or partner inclusions

Clause 5 of the bill would insert new sections 23A to 23I into the Social Security Act to introduce the parental income requirement. New section 23B(1) sets out how a young person would meet the requirement and therefore be eligible for support: the income of one applicable parent, or the combined income of two applicable parents, must not exceed the parental income limit. New section 23B(2) sets out specific exceptions for when a young person would be taken to have met the requirement.

One of these exceptions is in new section 23B(2)(b). It intends that a young person does not need to be re-assessed if they have met the requirement within the last 26 weeks and are directly moving from their benefit to inclusion as a spouse or partner in another person's relevant benefit. However, the current wording of this exception is wider than intended as it is not limited to these inclusions. To ensure that the proposed exception aligns with the policy intent, we recommend amending new section 23B(2)(b) to limit this exception to spouse or partner inclusion only.

Payment of “half-married rate” when a partner does not provide required information

Clause 5, new section 23C sets out the effect when a young person or their partner, if subject to the parental income requirement, provides information that demonstrates that they do not meet that requirement. Provisions in the new section relate to where a young person might apply or reapply for the relevant benefit, and where a review occurs if a benefit is granted or regranted.

¹ The base rate is an indicator of a client's income (and their partner's, if applicable), which is based on main benefit rates (and the family tax credit, if applicable).

The bill's intent is that the parental income requirement is an individual eligibility criterion for those who are subject to it. This means that a partner not providing their information to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) should not prevent the qualifying person from continuing to receive the half-married rate where they are otherwise entitled. We recommend inserting new sections 23C(3A), (3B), (4A), and (4B), and amending new subsection (5). Our changes would make clear that MSD is authorised to pay the qualifying client the half-married rate of a relevant benefit when their partner does not provide the required information as part of an application, reapplication, or a review (following a change in circumstances during the grant).

Definitions relating to parental income requirement

Definition of “parental income” to include sources of income

The bill would define several new terms relating to the parental income requirement provisions. The definition of “parental income”, as set out in new section 23D(1), would allow for a new regulation-making power (set out in new section 422A(1)) to include or exclude an amount as parental income.

However, using the word “amount” unintentionally limits the regulation-making power. The policy intent is that the regulation-making power should also be able to include or exclude sources of income, as well as amounts.

Additionally, the regulation-making power provided for in new section 422A(1) is intended to mirror the existing power in section 422(1) of the Act, which, in addition to “amounts” can exclude “items, payments, or income from [a] specified source”. We recommend amending the definition of “parental income limit” in new section 23D(1) to widen the description from “amount” to also capture “item, payment, or income from a specified source”.

We also recommend amending new section 422A(1), paragraphs (a) and (b) to mirror the description in the existing section 422(1) of the Act of “amounts, items, payments, or income from [a] specified source”.

Definition of “parental income limit” to include deduction of income tax

Another of the definitions relating to the parental income requirement, set out in new section 23D(1), is “parental income limit”. This is defined as “the amount of income before payment of income tax”. However, the definition of “parental income” (also in the same section) refers to income before payment or deduction of income tax, to reflect the different ways that income tax is accounted for. We recommend amending the definition of “parental income limit” in section 23D(1) to mean “the amount of gross parental income (that is, parental income before deduction or payment of income tax)”.

Amending the wording of the “representative week”

Clause 12 of the bill would amend Schedule 3 of the Act (Incomes and liabilities) to include the details about parental income. New clause 14B would provide for how

parental income is calculated where MSD is undertaking a discretionary review following a change in a young person's parental income. This includes how MSD determines the representative weeks for calculating an applicable parent's income.

As introduced, new clauses 14B(4)(b) and 14D(2)(a) state that the representative weeks determined by MSD for the income calculation should be "the 1 week starting on the day after the change of circumstances". However, stating that the 1 week starts on the day after the change of circumstances means that MSD cannot include any increased income received on the day of the change of circumstances.

We recommend amending new clauses 14B(4)(b) and 14D(2)(a) to clarify that the representative 1 week starts on the day of the change of circumstances, rather than the day after.

New Zealand Labour Party differing view

The Labour Party opposes this bill.

We note that the select committee received 930 submissions in scope: only one supported the bill.

Labour has already stated publicly that, if in Government, it would not implement the changes to the accommodation supplement. During a cost-of-living crisis these changes will only increase financial hardship among low- to middle-income households, including people in work and receiving income support.

Labour believes that the changes to jobseeker support for young people aged 18 to 19 years are poorly conceived.

As many submitters pointed out, the bill reduces the agency of young people and discriminates against them in a way that is inconsistent with the fact that they are adults.

The stated purpose of this Part of the bill is to reduce expenditure on benefits and reduce the use of benefits by young people. Economic conditions mean that more young people are accessing the benefit, take longer to exit, and return to benefit more quickly. The Minister's approach is to restrict the ability of young people aged 18 to 19 years to access jobseeker support. This also removes their access to a range of training and employment readiness support services—services that help in reducing the long-term use of benefits. Instead of addressing the economic conditions that drive the use of jobseeker support, both in the short- and long-term, the Minister is instead attacking the people who need that support because there are no jobs for them.

The Regulatory Impact Statement summarises the bill well: "In terms of impact on young people and their families, the costs will significantly outweigh the benefits".²

During economic downturns such as the one New Zealand is currently experiencing, young people are generally more heavily affected because they have less employable

² Ministry of Social Development, Regulatory Impact Statement: Tightening Access to Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit for 18 and 19 Year Olds, 10 September 2025, p. 5.

skills, are less likely to already be in stable employment. Further, they tend to look for work in sectors where jobs are at greater risk, such as hospitality and retail.

If there is a real desire to support young people into employment, then evidence shows that the most effective way to do this is to provide young people with education, training, and tailored employment services and support.

This is not what this bill does.

Labour is concerned that, if enacted, the bill will lead to increasing poverty and hardship. It risks alienating a group of young people from the support that they need, further deepening disengagement.

The bill's stated purpose of saving the Government money may not be achieved, through increased use of emergency supports and the long-term negative social effects of pushing people into financial hardship.

Submitters described their experience in communities that many young people and their families do not have enough to live on as it is. This is due to the high cost-of-living, low wages, and inadequate support. Many young people are not able to rely on their families for support because their families are already struggling or because it is unsafe to do so. There is a gap between the theoretical ability of a family to provide for a young person and the day-to-day reality of life.

The parental income level in the bill that would enable a young person to be eligible for jobseeker support is very low, set at an annual gross parental income of \$67,225 (as of 1 April 2026). Such a low eligibility level amidst high living costs means that many parents earning over this will struggle to support their children.

The bill will disproportionately effect Māori rangatahi and whānau, due to the disproportionate representation of Māori amongst unemployed people, with Māori youth unemployment generally higher than others, particularly over the long-term. Māori rangatahi are also experiencing high rates of disengagement from education and training, with young Māori wāhine at 21.8 percent, young Māori tāne at 19.1 percent, while the general rate was 14.4 percent.³

Māori were not meaningfully engaged in the development of this bill.

This bill will have a significant negative impact on disabled young people, given that jobseeker support health and disability is included in the requirement for a parental assistance test. These young people and their families face higher costs compared to other population groups, due to increased health-related expenses and time spent navigating health and social services. Disabled young people already find it harder to get work than others.

³ Pou Tangata Submission to Social Services and Community Select Committee on the Bill, 10 June 2026, p. 3.

Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand differing view

The Green Party opposes the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill, as we believe it will worsen the affordability crisis in our country by cutting support for 18- to 19-year-old jobseekers, as well as reducing the amount that low-income homeowners are able to receive through the accommodation supplement. We are particularly concerned about the inclusion of jobseekers who are sick, injured, or disabled as part of these reforms. We also oppose any narratives that deem to blame young people for a youth unemployment crisis they had no part in creating.

As of June 2026, there were almost 2,733 people receiving jobseeker support due to a health condition, injury, or disability. This group includes people battling cancer, and almost 70 percent of recipients have a psychiatric or psychological condition. By definition, someone receiving jobseeker support due to a health condition, injury, or disability is unable to work full-time, so it does not make sense to assume that they would be able to easily transition into training or education. There is also no evidence that there are enough jobs available for every unemployed person. We are concerned that media reports showing hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of people applying for a single job demonstrate that cutting income support for young people will do little to create additional employment opportunities.

We are concerned that the bill will lead to worsening material conditions for households, and we do not believe that the current parental income limits genuinely reflect the cost of living for families struggling to cover their bills and other essentials. A household income of \$67,225 per year is not enough to guarantee a dignified standard of living while also allowing families to prepare for unexpected circumstances. Therefore, we are concerned that more families may fall further behind on rent payments, bills, food, and other essentials, including medicine costs. Any savings generated by this bill are also likely to be undermined by the fact that struggling families will need to access support from other parts of the system, such as advances and Special Needs Grants from the Ministry of Social Development, or loans from private lending companies.

The reduction of the accommodation supplement for low-income homeowners, at a time of ongoing cost-of-living pressures, could leave people unable to meet their living expenses. Creating savings by reducing support for low-income families is not justified and is not fiscally responsible, as those savings will inevitably place pressure on other parts of the system. Similar to the cuts to benefits for 18- to 19-year-old jobseekers, we believe that any savings generated by this initiative will be offset by increased demand for other forms of assistance, given that many of the people affected are likely to qualify for advances and Special Needs Grants from Work and Income.

Instead, the Green Party believes that focusing on job creation, lifting incomes above the poverty line, and lowering the barriers to enter into study or training are better solutions to support young people to meet their aspirations.

Appendix

Committee process

The Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill was referred to this committee on 19 May 2026.

We called for submissions on the bill with a closing date of 10 June 2026. We received and considered submissions from 935 interested groups and individuals. Of the 935 submitters, 817 appeared to be generated from the “yeah nah” website, an online submission tool. This left 118 submissions that were independent of the “yeah nah” website, of which 19 were from organisations. We heard oral evidence from 17 submitters at a hearing in Wellington and via videoconference.

Advice on the bill was provided by the Ministry of Social Development. The Office of the Clerk provided advice on the bill’s legislative quality. The Parliamentary Counsel Office assisted with legal drafting.

Committee membership

Joseph Mooney (Chairperson)

Jamie Arbuckle

Kahurangi Carter

Dana Kirkpatrick

Laura McClure

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Maureen Pugh

Helen White

Ricardo Menéndez March and Mariameno Kapa-Kingi also participated in our consideration of this bill.

Related resources

The documents we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website.

**Social Security (Jobseeker Support and
Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill**

Key to symbols used in reprinted bill

As reported from a select committee

text inserted by a majority

~~text deleted by a majority~~

Hon Louise Upston

Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill

Government Bill

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Schedule 1

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Schedule 2

New Part ~~17~~18 inserted into Schedule 1

The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Act **2026**.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act comes into force on 2 November 2026.
- (2) However, **Part 2** comes into force on 1 April 2027.

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3 Principal Act

This Act amends the Social Security Act 2018.

Part 1

**Jobseeker support and equivalent emergency benefit:
tightening eligibility**

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4 Section 20 amended (Jobseeker support: requirements)

After section 20(c), insert:

(ca) meets the parental income requirement (*see* **sections 23A to 23I**); and

5 New sections 23A to 23I inserted

After section 23, insert:

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23A Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: when specified young person is subject to it

General rule: when specified young person is subject to requirement

(1) A specified young person (A) is subject to the parental income requirement if—

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- (a) A applied or reapplied for, and has not yet been granted or regranted, jobseeker support; or
- (b) A applied or reapplied for, and was granted or regranted, jobseeker support; or
- (c) A's spouse or partner applied or reapplied for, and has not yet been granted or regranted, jobseeker support, and A is a spouse or partner in respect of whom jobseeker support would be granted or regranted; or
- (d) A's spouse or partner applied or reapplied for, and was granted or regranted, jobseeker support, and A is a spouse or partner in respect of whom jobseeker support was granted or regranted.

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Exceptions: when specified young person is not subject to requirement

(2) However, a specified young person (A) is not subject to the parental income requirement under **subsection (1)** if—

- (a) A is a dependent child in respect of jobseeker support applied or reapplied for by, or granted or regranted to, a person other than A; or
- (b) the jobseeker support mentioned in **subsection (1)** would be, or is,—
 - (i) granted or regranted to A or A's spouse or partner; and
 - (ii) payable at an appropriate rate of benefit that is determined including (as well as A, and A's spouse or partner (if any)) 1 or more dependent children; or

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- (c) A, or A's spouse or partner, is receiving, in respect of a child, an orphan's benefit, an unsupported child's benefit, or a foster care allowance.

23B Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: how it is met

General rule: how requirement is met

- (1) A specified young person (A) who is subject to the parental income requirement (*see* **section 23A**) meets that requirement only if—

- (a) A has 1 applicable parent whose parental income for the calculation year is not more than the parental income limit; or
- (b) A has 2 applicable parents whose combined parental income for the calculation year is not more than the parental income limit.

Exceptions: when specified young person must be taken to meet requirement

- (2) However, a specified young person (A) who is subject to the parental income requirement (*see* **section 23A**) must be taken to meet that requirement if—

- (a) A has no applicable parents; or
- (b) A met that requirement for a relevant benefit in the last 26 weeks, had or is in a discretionary review under section 304, and in or because of that review is moving directly from receiving that relevant benefit to being included as a spouse or partner in determining the appropriate rate of benefit of another person's relevant benefit—
 - (i) that is the same, or a different, type of relevant benefit; and
 - (ii) for which A is, for any reason, subject to that requirement; or
- (c) that requirement would otherwise apply to A on a reapplication for jobseeker support, and A has in the reapplication advised MSD that there has been no increase in the following since MSD last calculated it:
 - (i) the parental income of A's 1 applicable parent; or
 - (ii) the combined parental income of A's 2 applicable parents.

23C Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: if it is not met

Before benefit granted or regranted to specified young person (A)

- (1) If A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(a)** and A does not meet that requirement, then, with effect from when A does not meet that requirement, A is not entitled to jobseeker support (regardless of whether A has a spouse or partner who is subject to, and meets, the parental income requirement).

After benefit granted or regranted to A

- (2) If A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(b)** and A does not meet that requirement, then, with effect from when A does not

- meet that requirement (regardless of whether A has a spouse or partner who is subject to, and meets, the parental income requirement),—
- (a) A is not entitled to jobseeker support; and
 - (b) jobseeker support granted or regranted to A is cancelled.
- Before benefit granted or regranted to A's spouse or partner* 5
- (3) If A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(c)** and A does not meet that requirement, then, with effect from when A does not meet that requirement, any jobseeker support to which A's spouse or partner is entitled and granted or regranted is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4. 10
- (3A) Subsection (3B) applies if—**
- (a) A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(c)**; and
 - (b) MSD has not received, from or on behalf of A and in the period for completing the application or the requirements for regrant, information that shows whether A meets the parental income requirement. 15
- (3B) With effect from when the granted or regranted benefit commences, any jobseeker support to which A's spouse or partner is entitled and granted or regranted is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4.** 20
- After benefit granted or regranted to A's spouse or partner*
- (4) If A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(d)** and A does not meet that requirement, then, with effect from when A does not meet that requirement, any jobseeker support to which A's spouse or partner is entitled and granted or regranted is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4. 25
- (4A) Subsection (4B) applies if—**
- (a) A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)(d)**; and
 - (b) MSD has not received, from or on behalf of A and by a deadline under subpart 3 or 3A of Part 6, information that shows whether A meets the parental income requirement. 30
- (4B) With effect from a date required by or determined under subpart 3 or 3A of Part 6, any jobseeker support to which A's spouse or partner is entitled and granted or regranted is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4.** 35
- Relationship with discretionary reviews and mandatory reviews*
- (5) **Subsections (2), (4), and (4B) do not limit—**
- (a) discretionary reviews under subpart 3 of Part 6 (for example, MSD's discretion under section 306 to suspend, cancel, or vary the rate of the 40

benefit from a date MSD reasonably determines under section 306(2), even if that determined date differs from when A does not meet the parental income requirement or from the deadline for providing information that shows whether A meets the parental income requirement; or

- (b) mandatory reviews under subpart 3A of Part 6 (for example, any requirement or discretion in that subpart to suspend, cancel, or vary the rate of the benefit from a specified time, even if that specified time differs from when A does not meet the parental income requirement or from the deadline for providing information that shows whether A meets the parental income requirement).

23D Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: definitions

Definitions

- (1) In the parental income requirement provisions, unless the context otherwise requires,—

applicable parent has the meaning given in **section 23E(2)**

calculation year means the year for which an applicable parent's parental income must be calculated under **clause 14A, 14B, or 14C of Schedule 3**

foster care allowance means a payment under section 363 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

MSD income tax deduction or payment, in relation to a payment of an amount of a benefit, means—

- (a) a tax deduction made by MSD from the source deduction payment (as defined in section 349) that is the payment of the amount of the benefit; or
- (b) an amount for income tax that is paid by MSD under section 350 on the payment of the amount of the benefit

parent, of a specified young person (A), means—

- (a) a natural parent of A; or
- (b) an adoptive parent of A; or
- (c) a step-parent of A

parental income, of an applicable parent (AP), means AP's income within the meaning given to that term by Part 2 of Schedule 3, but with that meaning modified by—

- (a) including an amount received by AP, of any of the following benefits, along with the MSD income tax deduction or payment:
- (i) a main benefit under this Act;
- (ii) New Zealand superannuation;
- (iii) veteran's pension; and

- (b) including any amount, item, payment, or income from a specified source, declared by regulations made under **section 422A(1)(a)** to be parental income; and
- (c) excluding an amount of any accommodation benefit received by AP under regulations made, or that must be treated as if they were made, under section 645 (regulations relating to student allowances) of the Education and Training Act 2020; and
- (d) excluding any amount, item, payment, or income from a specified source, declared by regulations made under **section 422A(1)(b)** not to be parental income; and
- (e) excluding, for the purposes of **clause 16A and 17 of Schedule 3**, a sum or payment specified in **clause 16A(5) of Schedule 3**

parental income limit, for an applicable parent's parental income for a calculation year, means the amount of gross parental income (that is, parental income before deduction or payment of income tax) that (because the rate of benefit is subject to Income Test 1) would reduce to zero a supported living payment that must be paid for a year at the rate of benefit specified in clause 1(g)(ii) of Part 3 of Schedule 4 (as in force at the time that the applicable parent's parental income must be calculated)

parental income requirement means the requirement in **section 23B** as that requirement applies to—

- (a) jobseeker support (*see* **sections 20(ca), 23A, and 23C**); and
- (b) equivalent emergency benefit (*see* **section 63(2A)**)

parental income requirement provisions means—

- (a) **sections 23A to 23I**;
- (b) **section 63(2A) and (2B)**;
- (c) **section 113(1A), (3A), and (3B)**;
- (d) **subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6**;
- (e) **section 422A**;
- (f) **clauses 14A to 14E and 16A of Schedule 3**;
- (g) any rules made under clause 17 of Schedule 3 for the purposes of **clause 16A of Schedule 3**;
- (h) **Part 16 of Schedule 1**

relevant benefit means—

- (a) jobseeker support (*see* **sections 23A to 23I**); or
- (b) an equivalent emergency benefit (*see* **section 63(2A)**)

specified young person means a person (A) who—

- 18 or 19 years, single, granted or regranted benefit*
- (a) is aged 18 or 19 years and—
- (i) is single; and
- (ii) would be, or was, granted or regranted jobseeker support that is payable in respect of A; or 5
- 18 or 19 years, in relationship, granted or regranted benefit*
- (b) is aged 18 or 19 years and—
- (i) has a spouse or partner who may, but need not, be a person to whom **paragraph (c) or (e)** applies; and
- (ii) would be, or was, granted or regranted jobseeker support that is payable in respect of— 10
- (A) A and A's spouse or partner (with, or without, 1 or more dependent children); or
- (B) A (with, or without, 1 or more dependent children), but not also A's spouse or partner; or 15
- 18 or 19 years, in relationship, included in spouse's or partner's benefit*
- (c) is aged 18 or 19 years, and is a spouse or partner of another person who—
- (i) may, but need not, be a person to whom **paragraph (b) or (d)** applies; and 20
- (ii) would be, or was, granted or regranted jobseeker support that is payable in respect of A and A's spouse or partner (with, or without, 1 or more dependent children); or
- 16 or 17 years, in relationship, spouse or partner at least 18 years old, granted or regranted benefit* 25
- (d) is aged 16 or 17 years and—
- (i) has a spouse or partner who—
- (A) is at least 18 years old; and
- (B) may be a person to whom **paragraph (c)** applies, or may instead be a person who is at least 20 years old; and 30
- (ii) would be, or was, granted or regranted jobseeker support that is payable in respect of A and A's spouse or partner (with, or without, 1 or more dependent children); or
- 16 or 17 years, in relationship, spouse or partner at least 18 years old, included in spouse's or partner's benefit* 35
- (e) is aged 16 or 17 years and is a spouse or partner of another person who—
- (i) is at least 18 years old; and

	(ii) may be a person to whom paragraph (b) applies, or may instead be a person who is at least 20 years old; and (iii) would be, or was, granted or regranted jobseeker support that is payable in respect of A and A's spouse or partner (with, or without, 1 or more dependent children).	5
	<i>References to meeting parental income requirement</i>	
(2)	A reference in the parental income requirement provisions (except sections 310ZB(3), 310ZL(3), and 310ZT(3), and clauses 14A(2), 14B(2), and 14C(2) of Schedule 3) to a person who meets the parental income requirement includes, without limitation, a reference to a person who under section 23B(2) must be taken to meet that requirement.	10
	<i>Birthday of person born on 29 February in leap year</i>	
(3)	If a person (A) was born on 29 February in a leap year, A's birthday in a non-leap year is, for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions, taken to occur on 1 March of that non-leap year.	15
23E	Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: applicable parent	
	<i>No applicable parents, 1 applicable parent, or 2 applicable parents</i>	
(1)	For the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions, only 1 of the following paragraphs applies to a specified young person (A):	
	(a) A has no applicable parents (<i>see</i> section 23B(2)(a)); or	20
	(b) A has 1 applicable parent (<i>see</i> section 23B(1)(a)); or	
	(c) A has 2 applicable parents (<i>see</i> section 23B(1)(b)).	
	<i>Definition: applicable parent only if MSD makes determination</i>	
(2)	In the parental income requirement provisions, unless the context otherwise requires, a parent (P1) of a specified young person (A) is an applicable parent of A only if MSD has determined under this subsection that P1 is an applicable parent of A because MSD is satisfied of both of the following:	25
	(a) A does not have a parental support gap with P1 (<i>see</i> section 23G); and	
	(b) P1 is not in a relationship with another parent of A (P2) with whom MSD has determined A has a parental support gap (<i>see</i> section 23G) for reasons that are, or include, that, if A were to rely on P2 for financial support, then P2 would pose a risk to A's safety.	30
	Guide	
	A has no applicable parents if MSD has made no applicable parent determinations under this section.	35
	A has 1 or 2 applicable parents only if MSD makes 1 or more applicable parent determinations under this section whose effect is that—	
	• 1 parent of A is an applicable parent of A; or	
	• 2 parents of A are each applicable parents of A.	

	<i>Determination must be based on relevant evidence available to MSD, etc</i>	
(3)	MSD must make an applicable parent determination under subsection (2) —	
	(a) based on relevant evidence available to MSD (for example, any evidence supplied to MSD by or on behalf of A); and	
	(b) having regard to any applicable directions given under section 7.	5
23F	Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: priority for applicable parent determinations	
	<i>Natural parents or adoptive parents must be considered before step-parents</i>	
(1)	MSD may determine whether a step-parent of A is an applicable parent of A only after MSD has determined that all or any of the following is or are not an applicable parent of A:	10
	(a) 1 or more natural parents of A; or	
	(b) 1 or more adoptive parents of A.	
	Example	
	<i>Natural parents must be considered before step-parents</i>	15
	A has 2 natural parents (P1 and P2).	
	But P1 and P2 are no longer in a relationship.	
	P1 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP1).	
	P2 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP2).	
	MSD may determine whether SP1 or SP2 is an applicable parent of A only after MSD has determined that either or both of the 1 or more natural parents of A is or are not an applicable parent of A.	20
	<i>Step-parent who A is living with must be considered before other step-parent</i>	
(2)	MSD may determine whether a step-parent who A is not living with is an applicable parent of A only after MSD has determined that another step-parent who A is living with is not an applicable parent of A.	25
	Example	
	<i>Step-parent who A is living with must be considered before other step-parent</i>	
	A has 2 natural parents (P1 and P2).	
	But P1 and P2 are no longer in a relationship.	30
	P1 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP1).	
	P2 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP2).	
	A is living with P1 and SP1.	
	A is not living with P2 and SP2.	
	MSD may determine whether SP2 is an applicable parent of A only after MSD has determined that SP1 is not an applicable parent of A.	35

<i>If A is not living with step-parent, step-parent in relationship with parent with whom A does not have support gap must be considered before step-parent in relationship with parent with whom A has parental support gap</i>	
(3)	Subsection (4) applies if—
(a)	A is not living with any step-parent; and 5
(b)	A has a step-parent (SP1) who is in a relationship with a parent (P1) with whom A does not have a parental support gap; and
(c)	A has a step-parent (SP2) who is in a relationship with a parent (P2) with whom A has a parental support gap for reasons that are not, or do not include, that, if A were to rely on P2 for financial support, then P2 would pose a risk to A's safety. 10
(4)	MSD may determine whether SP2 is an applicable parent of A only after MSD has determined that SP1 is not an applicable parent of A.
23G	Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: parental support gap
	<i>Parental support gap only if MSD makes determination</i> 15
(1)	For the purposes of section 23E , a specified young person (A) has a parental support gap with a parent (P) only if MSD has determined that MSD is satisfied that it is not reasonable in the circumstances for A to rely on P for financial support.
	<i>Situations in which it is not reasonable for A to rely on P for financial support</i> 20
(2)	MSD must be satisfied under subsection (1) that it is not reasonable in the circumstances for A to rely on P for financial support if—
(a)	A has or had a caregiver who is or was receiving an orphan's benefit or an unsupported child's benefit for A until A turns 18 or under subpart 18 of Part 2 (extended payment of benefits for children aged 18 years or over who continue education); or 25
(b)	A is or was in the care or custody of Oranga Tamariki and is or was entitled under sections 386A and 386B of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 to support by way of advice or assistance at any time from when they leave care or custody up to the age of 25 years. 30
(3)	Subsection (2) does not limit MSD being satisfied under subsection (1) for reasons not specified in subsection (2) that it is not reasonable in the circumstances for A to rely on P for financial support.
	<i>Determination must be based on relevant evidence available to MSD, etc</i>
(4)	MSD must make a parental support gap determination under subsection (1) — 35
(a)	based on relevant evidence available to MSD (for example, any evidence supplied to MSD by or on behalf of A); and
(b)	having regard to any applicable directions given under section 7.

	<i>Determination of specified kind must make clear if based on risk to A's safety</i>	
(5)	A determination under subsection (1) that A has a parental support gap with P must make clear, for the purposes of section 23E(2)(b) , whether A's parental support gap with P exists for reasons that are, or include, that, if A were to rely on P for financial support, then P would pose a risk to A's safety.	5
23H	Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: priority for parental support gap determinations	
	<i>Natural parents or adoptive parents must be considered before step-parents</i>	
(1)	MSD may determine whether A has a parental support gap with a step-parent only after MSD has determined that A has a parental support gap with—	10
	(a) 1 or more natural parents of A; or	
	(b) 1 or more adoptive parents of A.	
	Example	
	<i>Natural parents must be considered before step-parents</i>	
	A has 2 natural parents (P1 and P2).	15
	But P1 and P2 are no longer in a relationship.	
	P1 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP1).	
	P2 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP2).	
	MSD may determine whether A has a parental support gap with SP1 or SP2 only after MSD has determined that A has a parental support gap with P1, P2, or both.	20
	<i>Step-parent who A is living with must be considered before other step-parent</i>	
(2)	MSD may determine whether A has a parental support gap with a step-parent who A is not living with only after MSD has determined that A has a parental support gap with another step-parent who A is living with.	
	Example	25
	<i>Step-parent who A is living with must be considered before other step-parent</i>	
	A has 2 natural parents (P1 and P2).	
	But P1 and P2 are no longer in a relationship.	
	P1 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP1).	
	P2 is in a relationship with a step-parent (SP2).	30
	A is living with P1 and SP1.	
	A is not living with P2 and SP2.	
	MSD may determine whether A has a parental support gap with SP2 only after MSD has determined that A has a parental support gap with SP1.	
	<i>A not living with either step-parent and has support gap with 1 parent</i>	35
(3)	Subsection (4) applies if—	
	(a) A is not living with any step-parent; and	

	(b) A has a step-parent (SP1) who is in a relationship with a parent (P1) with whom A does not have a parental support gap; and	
	(c) A has a step-parent (SP2) who is in a relationship with a parent (P2) with whom A has a parental support gap for reasons that are not, or do not include, that, if A were to rely on P2 for financial support, then P2 would pose a risk to A's safety.	5
(4)	MSD may determine whether A has a parental support gap with SP2 only after MSD has determined that A has a parental support gap with SP1.	
23I	Jobseeker support: parental income requirement: relationship determinations	10
	<i>Determination parent is single</i>	
(1)	MSD may make a determination to regard as single, for the purposes of sections 23E to 23H , a parent who is married or in a civil union with that parent's spouse or partner, but—	
	(a) is living apart from that parent's spouse or partner; and	15
	(b) is not in a de facto relationship.	
(2)	A determination under subsection (1) may include a date, determined by MSD, on which the spouses or partners must be taken for the purposes of sections 23E to 23H to have commenced to live apart.	
	<i>Determination parent is in relationship</i>	20
(3)	MSD may make a determination to regard as a party to a de facto relationship, for the purposes of sections 23E to 23H , any 2 people who, not being legally married or in a civil union, have entered into a de facto relationship.	
(4)	A determination under subsection (3) , for the purposes of sections 23E to 23H , may include either or both of the following dates:	25
	(a) a date, determined by MSD, on which the 2 people must be taken as having entered into the de facto relationship:	
	(b) a date, determined by MSD, on which the de facto relationship of the 2 people must be taken to have ended.	
	<i>Relationship with other provisions</i>	30
(5)	Every determination under this section also applies for the purposes of every debt-recovery or offence provision in or under this Act.	
6	Section 63 amended (Emergency benefit: discretionary grant on ground of hardship)	
	After section 63(2), insert:	35
(2A)	However, if P is a specified young person, and the equivalent benefit under subsection (4) is jobseeker support, MSD may grant P an emergency benefit only if P meets the parental income requirement.	

(2B) For the purposes of **subsection (2A)**, parental income requirement provisions that do not mention the equivalent emergency benefit apply to it as if it were jobseeker support.

7 Section 113 amended (Beneficiary must notify change of circumstances)

(1) After section 113(1), insert: 5

(1A) A beneficiary must without delay notify MSD of a change in the circumstances of a parent of the beneficiary if—

- (a) the change affects whether the beneficiary is subject to, or meets, the parental income requirement; and
- (b) for that reason, the change affects— 10
 - (i) the beneficiary’s entitlement to receive a benefit; or
 - (ii) the rate of a benefit the beneficiary receives.

(2) In the heading above section 113(2), after “*Examples of change of circumstances*”, insert “: *general*”.

(3) After section 113(3), insert: 15

Examples of change of circumstances: parental income requirement

(3A) Examples of a change in the beneficiary’s circumstances, in relation to a relevant benefit, include—

- (a) the beneficiary becoming, or ceasing to be, a specified young person for a relevant benefit (*see* **section 23A(1)**): 20
- (b) a change that does, or may, affect whether a parent of the beneficiary is an applicable parent (*see* **sections 23B and 23E**):
- (c) the beneficiary ceasing to be a dependent child in respect of whom a relevant benefit would be or was granted or regranted to, and payable to, any other person (*see* **section 23A(2)(a)**): 25
- (d) the beneficiary, or the beneficiary’s spouse or partner, ceasing to have the care of the last or only dependent child in respect of whom a relevant benefit granted or regranted to the beneficiary, or the beneficiary’s spouse or partner, would be, or was, payable (*see* **section 23A(2)(b)**):
- (e) the beneficiary, or the beneficiary’s spouse or partner, ceasing to have 30
 the care of the last or only child in respect of whom the beneficiary, or the beneficiary’s spouse or partner, was receiving an orphan’s benefit, an unsupported child’s benefit, or a foster care allowance (*see* **section 23A(2)(c)**).

(3B) Examples of a change in the circumstances of a parent of the beneficiary that affects whether the beneficiary is subject to, or meets, the parental income requirement, in relation to a relevant benefit, include— 35

- (a) a change in whether the parent is single or is in a relationship, and that does, or may, affect the applicable parents of a specified young person in respect of whom the relevant benefit would be or was payable:
- (b) an increase in the parental income of 1 applicable parent, or in the combined parental income of 2 applicable parents, of a specified young person in respect of whom the relevant benefit would be or was payable.

5

8 New subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6 inserted

Before section 311, insert:

Subpart 3B—Reviews related to parental income requirement: child leaves care because of sudden uncontrollable change of circumstances

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310W Relevant benefit to which this subpart applies

Relevant benefit to which this subpart applies

- (1) This subpart applies to a relevant benefit granted or regranted to, or in respect of, a specified young person (A) if MSD becomes aware in any way of information that does, or may, satisfy MSD that—

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- (a) a child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner; and
- (b) the child leaves that care in a way that meets the conditions set out in **subsections (2) and (3)**.

Child leaves care because of sudden uncontrollable change of circumstances

- (2) The condition in this subsection is that the child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, because of a change of circumstances that is sudden and beyond the control of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner.

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A is subject to parental income requirement

- (3) The condition in this subsection is that the child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, with the effect that **section 23A(2)(b) or (c)** ceases to apply to A (and A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**) because—

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- (a) the relevant benefit ceases to be payable at an appropriate rate of benefit that is determined including (as well as A, and A's spouse or partner (if any)) 1 or more dependent children; or
- (b) A, or A's spouse or partner, ceases to be receiving, in respect of a child, an orphan's benefit, an unsupported child's benefit, or a foster care allowance.

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310X Review under section 304 to ascertain child exclusion date

MSD must carry out a review under section 304 to ascertain the **child exclusion date** (if any), which, in this subpart, means the date on which,—

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- (a) if **section 310W(3)(a)** applies, the relevant benefit ceases to be payable in respect of A, or A and A's spouse or partner, and 1 or more dependent children; or
- (b) if **section 310W(3)(b)** applies, A, or A's spouse or partner, ceases to be receiving, in respect of a child, an orphan's benefit, an unsupported child's benefit, or a foster care allowance.

5

310Y Other requirements apply only if MSD notified that child left care

Sections 310Z to 310ZG apply only if MSD ascertains the child exclusion date under **section 310X**, and notice that the child left the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, is given to MSD—

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- (a) by or on behalf of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner; and
- (b) at a time before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date.

310Z Conditional payment at rate without dependent children

- (1) MSD must pay the relevant benefit in respect of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner,—

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- (a) at the appropriate rate for a beneficiary, or for a beneficiary and their spouse or partner, without 1 or more dependent children; and
- (b) as a conditional payment that, to the extent that A, or A's spouse or partner, does not meet the parental income requirement for all or any of the days for which the conditional payment is made, is a debt due to the Crown from A, or from A and A's spouse or partner, for the purpose of regulations made under section 444.

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- (2) The conditional payment is paid until the earlier of the following:

- (a) the end of 20 working days after the child exclusion date;
- (b) the end of the date on which a review under **section 310ZA** determines whether A or A's spouse or partner is, or remains, entitled to receive the relevant benefit, and the rate of benefit of the relevant benefit, that is being paid to, or in respect of, A or A's spouse or partner.

25

310ZA Review of entitlement to, and rate of benefit of, relevant benefit

- (1) MSD must, after MSD has received the required information (*see* **section 310ZB(2)**), review whether A or A's spouse or partner is, or remains, entitled to receive the relevant benefit, and the rate of benefit of the relevant benefit, that is being paid to, or in respect of, A or A's spouse or partner.

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- (2) *See also* **clause 14C of Schedule 3** (parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated: reviews under **subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6**).

35

310ZB Notice of review and seeking required information*Notice of review*

- (1) MSD must, as soon as practicable (and, if possible, at least 20 working days) before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date, give A a notice explaining that— 5
- (a) the relevant benefit is, for up to 20 working days after the child exclusion date, paid as a conditional payment—
 - (i) at the appropriate rate for a beneficiary, or for a beneficiary and their spouse or partner, without 1 or more dependent children; and
 - (ii) that, to the extent that A, or A's spouse or partner, does not meet the parental income requirement for all or any of those working days, is a debt due to the Crown from A, or from A and A's spouse or partner; and 10
 - (b) if the review under **section 310ZA** determines that A does not meet the parental income requirement, the relevant benefit will be cancelled, or will be payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on the child exclusion date; and 15
 - (c) if the relevant benefit is so cancelled, or is so payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, MSD must consider eligibility for, and granting of, any other benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A. 20

Required information

- (2) That notice must ask A to ensure that MSD receives, from or on behalf of A, as soon as is reasonably practicable before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date, and because it is required by MSD under this section, information (in this subpart, called the **required information**) that— 25
- (a) is reasonably required for the purposes of the review; and
 - (b) shows whether A meets the parental income requirement.

Notice if couple both subject to parental income requirement

- (3) A notice required by **subsections (1) and (2)** must be given to A, and applies to both A and A's spouse or partner, if— 30
- (a) A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**; and
 - (b) A's spouse or partner is the person in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**. 35

310ZC If benefit suspended, or not payable, for another reason

Effect on requirement to give notice

- (1) **Subsection (2)** applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to give notice under **section 310ZB**, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,—
 - (a) suspended; or
 - (b) not for the time being payable under this Act.
- (2) MSD is not required to give the notice at that time, but may do so before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date if—
 - (a) A's relevant benefit has ceased, or will cease, for reasons of that kind, to be suspended, or to be not for the time being payable; and
 - (b) it is reasonably practicable for A to provide the required information before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date.

Effect on requirement to conduct review

- (3) **Subsection (4)** applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to conduct a review under **section 310ZA**, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,—
 - (a) suspended; or
 - (b) not for the time being payable under this Act.
- (4) MSD is not required to conduct the review at that time, but may do so after MSD has received the required information.

310ZD Suspension or reduction if required information not provided

- (1) If A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received from A the required information before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date, MSD must suspend the relevant benefit with effect starting on the child exclusion date and until the earlier of the following events:
 - (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under **section 310ZA**;
 - (b) MSD cancels the benefit under **section 310ZF**.
- (2) If A is a spouse or partner in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received from A the required information before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date, the relevant benefit is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4 with effect starting on the child exclusion date and until the earlier of the following events:
 - (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under **section 310ZA**;
 - (b) MSD cancels the benefit under **section 310ZF**.

310ZE What MSD must do as result of review

- (1) As a result of the review under **section 310ZA**, MSD must, if A does not meet the parental income requirement,—
 - (a) cancel the relevant benefit, or pay the relevant benefit at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on the child exclusion date (as required by **section 23C**); and
 - (b) consider eligibility for, and granting of, another benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A.
- (2) As a result of the review under **section 310ZA**, MSD must, if A meets the parental income requirement,—
 - (a) and the relevant benefit has not been suspended, continue the relevant benefit at the appropriate rate; or
 - (b) and the relevant benefit has been suspended, resume the relevant benefit at the appropriate rate and with effect starting on the child exclusion date.

310ZF Cancellation if required information not provided

If MSD has not received the required information 8 weeks after the child exclusion date, MSD must cancel the relevant benefit with effect starting on the child exclusion date.

310ZG Part 7 gives rights to seek review or appeal against decision

- (1) Rights to seek a review of, or to appeal against, a decision on a review under ~~**section 310ZA**~~ this subpart are given by the following subparts of Part 7:
 - (a) subpart 2 (reviews by benefits review committee):
 - (b) subpart 3 (appeals to appeal authority):
 - (c) subpart 4 (appeals to courts).
- (2) **Subsection (1)** is by way of explanation only.

Subpart 3C—Reviews related to parental income requirement: child
leaves care for other reason

310ZH Child leaves care for other reason

Relevant benefit to which this subpart applies

- (1) This subpart applies to a relevant benefit granted or regranted to, or in respect of, a specified young person (A) if MSD becomes aware in any way of information that does, or may, satisfy MSD that—
 - (a) a child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner; and
 - (b) the child leaves that care in a way that meets the conditions set out in **subsections (2) and (3)**.

Child leaves care for other reason

- (2) The condition in this subsection is that the child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, for any reason other than a change of circumstances that is sudden and beyond the control of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner.

A is subject to parental income requirement

- (3) The condition in this subsection is that the child leaves the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, with the effect that **section 23A(2)(b) or (c)** ceases to apply to A (and A is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**) because—

- (a) the relevant benefit ceases to be payable in respect of 1 or more dependent children (as well as in respect of A, and A's spouse or partner (if any)); or
- (b) A, or A's spouse or partner, ceases to be receiving, in respect of a child, an orphan's benefit, an unsupported child's benefit, or a foster care allowance.

310ZI Review under section 304 to ascertain child exclusion date

MSD must carry out a review under section 304 to ascertain the **child exclusion date** (if any), which, in this subpart, means the date on which,—

- (a) if **section 310ZH(3)(a)** applies, the relevant benefit ceases to be payable at an appropriate rate of benefit that is determined including (as well as A, and A's spouse or partner (if any)) 1 or more dependent children; or
- (b) if **section 310ZH(3)(b)** applies, A, or A's spouse or partner, ceases to be receiving, in respect of a child, an orphan's benefit, an unsupported child's benefit, or a foster care allowance.

310ZJ Other requirements apply only if MSD notified that child left care

Sections 310ZK to 310ZQ apply only if MSD ascertains the child exclusion date under **section 310ZI**, and notice that the child left the care of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner, is given to MSD—

- (a) by or on behalf of A, or of A and A's spouse or partner; and
- (b) at a time before the child exclusion date.

310ZK Review of entitlement to, and rate of benefit of, relevant benefit

- (1) MSD must, on or after the child exclusion date and after MSD has received the required information (*see* **section 310ZL(2)**), review whether A or A's spouse or partner is, or remains, entitled to receive the relevant benefit, and the rate of benefit of the relevant benefit, that is being paid to, or in respect of, A.
- (2) *See also* **clause 14C of Schedule 3** (parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated: reviews under **subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6**).

310ZL Notice of review and seeking required information

Notice of review

- (1) MSD must, as soon as practicable (and, if possible, at least 20 working days) before the child exclusion date, give A a notice explaining that,—
 - (a) if the review under **section 310ZK** determines that A does not meet the parental income requirement, the relevant benefit will be cancelled, or will be payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on the child exclusion date; and 5
 - (b) if the relevant benefit is so cancelled, or is so payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, MSD must consider eligibility for, and granting of, any other benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A. 10

Required information

- (2) That notice must ask A to ensure that MSD receives, from or on behalf of A, as soon as is reasonably practicable before the child exclusion date, and because it is required by MSD under this section, information (in this subpart, called the **required information**) that— 15
 - (a) is reasonably required for the purposes of the review; and
 - (b) shows whether A meets the parental income requirement. 20

Notice if couple both subject to parental income requirement

- (3) A notice required by **subsections (1) and (2)** must be given to A, and applies to both A and A's spouse or partner, if— 20
 - (a) A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**; and 25
 - (b) A's spouse or partner is the person in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**. 30

310ZM If benefit suspended, or not payable, for another reason

Effect on requirement to give notice

- (1) **Subsection (2)** applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to give notice under **section 310ZL**, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,— 35
 - (a) suspended; or
 - (b) not for the time being payable under this Act.
- (2) MSD is not required to give the notice at that time, but may do so before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date if—

- (a) A's relevant benefit has ceased, or will cease, for reasons of that kind, to be suspended, or to be not for the time being payable; and
- (b) it is reasonably practicable for A to provide the required information before the 21st working day after the child exclusion date.

Effect on requirement to conduct review

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- (3) **Subsection (4)** applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to conduct a review under **section 310ZK**, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,—

- (a) suspended; or
- (b) not for the time being payable under this Act.

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- (4) MSD is not required to conduct the review at that time, but may do so after MSD has received the required information.

310ZN Suspension or reduction if required information not provided

- (1) If A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received the required information before the child exclusion date, MSD must suspend the relevant benefit with effect starting on the child exclusion date and until the earlier of the following events:

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- (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under **section 310ZK**;
- (b) MSD cancels the benefit under **section 310ZP**.

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- (2) If A is a spouse or partner in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received from A the required information before the child exclusion date, the relevant benefit is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4 with effect starting on the child exclusion date and until the earlier of the following events:

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- (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under **section 310ZK**;
- (b) MSD cancels the benefit under **section 310ZP**.

310ZO What MSD must do as result of review

- (1) As a result of the review under **section 310ZK**, MSD must, if A does not meet the parental income requirement,—

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- (a) cancel the relevant benefit, or pay the relevant benefit at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on the child exclusion date (as required by **section 23C**); and
- (b) consider eligibility for, and granting of, another benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A.

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- (2) As a result of the review under **section 310ZK**, MSD must, if A meets the parental income requirement, continue or resume the relevant benefit at the appropriate rate and with effect starting on the child exclusion date.

310ZP Cancellation if required information not provided

If MSD has not received the required information 8 weeks after the child exclusion date, MSD must cancel the relevant benefit with effect starting on the child exclusion date. 5

310ZQ Part 7 gives rights to seek review or appeal against decision

- (1) Rights to seek a review of, or to appeal against, a decision on a review under ~~**section 310ZK**~~ this subpart are given by the following subparts of Part 7: 10
- (a) subpart 2 (reviews by benefits review committee):
 - (b) subpart 3 (appeals to appeal authority):
 - (c) subpart 4 (appeals to courts).

- (2) **Subsection (1)** is by way of explanation only.

Subpart 3D—Reviews related to parental income requirement: 15
beneficiary or spouse or partner turns 18

310ZR Relevant benefit to which this subpart applies

This subpart applies to a relevant benefit that—

- (a) is, or is an emergency benefit equivalent to, jobseeker support granted under section 25(4); and 20
- (b) is granted to, or in respect of, a person (A) who—
 - (i) was not a specified young person when that benefit was granted; and
 - (ii) becomes a specified young person (and subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**) after that benefit was granted and on A's, or A's spouse's or partner's, 18th birthday. 25

310ZS Review of entitlement to, and rate of benefit of, relevant benefit

- (1) MSD must, on or after that 18th birthday and after MSD has received the required information (*see* **section 310ZT(2)**), review whether A or A's spouse or partner is, or remains, entitled to receive the relevant benefit, and the rate of benefit of the relevant benefit, that is being paid to, or in respect of, A. 30
- (2) *See also* **clause 14C of Schedule 3** (parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated: reviews under **subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6**).

310ZT Notice of review and seeking required information

Notice of review

- (1) MSD must, as soon as practicable (and, if possible, at least 20 working days) before that 18th birthday, give A a notice explaining that,—
- (a) if the review under **section 310ZS** determines that A does not meet the parental income requirement, the relevant benefit will be cancelled, or will be payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on that 18th birthday; and
- (b) if the relevant benefit is so cancelled, or is so payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, MSD must consider eligibility for, and granting of, any other benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A.

Required information

- (2) That notice must ask A to ensure that MSD receives, from or on behalf of A, as soon as is reasonably practicable before that 18th birthday, and because it is required by MSD under this section, information (in this subpart, called the **required information**) that—
- (a) is reasonably required for the purposes of the review; and
- (b) shows whether A meets the parental income requirement.

Notice if couple both subject to parental income requirement

- (3) A notice required by **subsections (1) and (2)** must be given to A, and applies to both A and A's spouse or partner, if—
- (a) A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**; and
- (b) A's spouse or partner is the person in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, is subject to the parental income requirement under **section 23A(1)**, and is not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**.

310ZU If benefit suspended, or not payable, for another reason

Effect on requirement to give notice

- (1) **Subsection (2)** applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to give notice under **section 310ZT**, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,—
- (a) suspended; or
- (b) not for the time being payable under this Act.
- (2) MSD is not required to give the notice at that time, but may do so before that 18th birthday if—

(a) A's relevant benefit has ceased, or will cease, for reasons of that kind, to be suspended, or to be not for the time being payable; and (b) it is reasonably practicable for A to provide the required information before that 18th birthday.	
<i>Effect on requirement to conduct review</i>	5
(3) Subsection (4) applies if, at the time MSD would (but for that subsection) be required to conduct a review under section 310ZS, A's relevant benefit is, for reasons unrelated to A not meeting the parental income requirement,— (a) suspended; or (b) not for the time being payable under this Act. (4) MSD is not required to conduct the review at that time, but may do so after MSD has received the required information.	10
310ZV Suspension or reduction if required information not provided	
(1) If A is the person to whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received the required information before that 18th birthday, MSD must suspend the relevant benefit with effect starting on that 18th birthday and until the earlier of the following events: (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under section 310ZS: (b) MSD cancels the benefit under section 310ZX. (2) If A is a spouse or partner in respect of whom the relevant benefit is granted or regranted, and MSD has not received from A the required information before that 18th birthday, the relevant benefit is payable at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4 with effect starting on that 18th birthday and until the earlier of the following events: (a) MSD receives the required information and completes a review under section 310ZS: (b) MSD cancels the benefit under section 310ZX.	25
310ZW What MSD must do as result of review	
(1) As a result of the review under section 310ZS, MSD must, if A does not meet the parental income requirement,— (a) cancel the relevant benefit, or pay the relevant benefit at only half the rate of benefit in clause 1(j)(i) of Part 1 of Schedule 4, with effect starting on that 18th birthday (as required by section 23C); and (b) consider eligibility for, and granting of, another benefit that, if granted, would be payable to, or in respect of, A.	35

- (2) As a result of the review under **section 310ZS**, MSD must, if A meets the parental income requirement, continue or resume the relevant benefit at the appropriate rate and with effect starting on that 18th birthday.

310ZX Cancellation if required information not provided

If MSD has not received the required information 8 weeks after that 18th birthday, MSD must cancel the relevant benefit with effect starting on that 18th birthday.

310ZY Part 7 gives rights to seek review or appeal against decision

- (1) Rights to seek a review of, or to appeal against, a decision on a review under ~~**section 310ZS**~~ this subpart are given by the following subparts of Part 7:
- (a) subpart 2 (reviews by benefits review committee):
 - (b) subpart 3 (appeals to appeal authority):
 - (c) subpart 4 (appeals to courts).
- (2) **Subsection (1)** is by way of explanation only.

9 New section 422A inserted (Regulations: jobseeker support: parental income requirement: parental income inclusions and exclusions)

After section 422, insert:

422A Regulations: jobseeker support: parental income requirement: parental income inclusions and exclusions

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council, make regulations for the purposes of either or both of the following paragraphs of the definition of parental income in **section 23D**:
- (a) **paragraph (b)** (amount, item, payment, or income from specified source, declared to be parental income):
 - (b) **paragraph (d)** (amount, item, payment, or income from specified source, declared not to be parental income).
- (2) Regulations made under **subsection (1)(b)** have effect in respect of any income specified in the regulations on and after a date—
- (a) specified in the regulations; and
 - (b) earlier than, the same as, or later than the date on which the regulations are made.
- (3) Regulations under this section are secondary legislation (*see* Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019 for publication requirements).

10 Schedule 1 amended

In Schedule 1,—

- (a) insert the Part set out in **Schedule 1** of this Act as the last Part; and

- (b) make all necessary consequential amendments.

11 Schedule 2 amended

- (1) In Schedule 2, insert in their appropriate alphabetical order:

applicable parent is defined in **section 23E** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

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calculation year is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

child exclusion date—

- (a) is defined in **section 310X** for the purposes of **subpart 3B of Part 6**; and

- (b) is defined in **section 310ZI** for the purposes of **subpart 3C of Part 6**

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foster care allowance is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

MSD income tax deduction or payment is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

parental income—

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- (a) is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions; but

- (b) for the purposes of clauses **16A** and 17 of Schedule 3, has the meaning in **section 23D** as modified by **clause 16A(5)** of Schedule 3

parental income limit is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

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parental income requirement is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

parental income requirement provisions is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of those provisions

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relevant benefit is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

required information—

- (a) is defined in **section 310ZB** for the purposes of **subpart 3B of Part 6**; and

- (b) is defined in **section 310ZL** for the purposes of **subpart 3C of Part 6**; and

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- (c) is defined in **section 310ZT** for the purposes of **subpart 3D of Part 6**

specified young person is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions

- (2) In Schedule 2, replace the definition of **parent** with:

parent,—

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- (a) in relation to a specified young person, is defined in **section 23D** for the purposes of the parental income requirement provisions; and

- (b) in relation to a child, is defined in section 43(3) for the purposes of—
 - (i) subpart 5 of Part 2 (orphan’s benefit); and
 - (ii) section 31(b)(i) (sole parent support: when dependent child may be regarded as applicant’s child); and
- (c) in relation to a child, is defined in section 46(3) for the purposes of—
 - (i) subpart 6 of Part 2 (unsupported child’s benefit); and
 - (ii) section 31(b)(ii) (sole parent support: when dependent child may be regarded as applicant’s child)

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12 Schedule 3 amended

- (1) In the Schedule 3 heading, after “**Income and liabilities**”, insert “, **and parental income**”.
- (2) In the Schedule 3 heading,—
 - (a) replace “65,” with “**23D**, 65AAA,”; and
 - (b) after “101,”, insert “113, 304, 304A, **310W to 310ZY**, 363A,”.
- (3) In Schedule 3, clause 1(c), after “income”, insert “and parental income”.
- (4) In Schedule 3, Part 3 heading, after “**General provisions on calculation of income**”, insert “**and parental income**”.
- (4A) In Schedule 3, clause 9, before “specified source”, insert “a”.
- (5) In Schedule 3, after clause 14, insert:

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**14A Parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated:
applications and reapplications**

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Application

- (1) This clause applies if a relevant benefit is applied for, or if a relevant benefit is reapplied for—
 - (a) before, on, or after its expiry date (as defined in section 331); and
 - (b) under section 336 and regulations made under section 441(1).

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Duty to check if specified young person meets parental income requirement

- (2) MSD must check whether a specified young person (A) meets the parental income requirement if A is—
 - (a) subject to it under **section 23A(1)**; and
 - (b) not required to be taken to meet it under **section 23B(2)**.

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How parental income calculated for calculation year

- (3) In checking whether A meets the parental income requirement, MSD must calculate an applicable parent’s parental income for the calculation year by completing the following:
 - (a) determining the representative weeks; and

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	(b) calculating that parent's parental income for the representative weeks that MSD determines (<i>see also</i> clause 14D); and (c) if the number of the representative weeks that MSD determines is not 52, annualising that parent's parental income for those weeks (<i>see</i> clause 14E).	5
	<i>Representative weeks that MSD determines</i>	
	(4) The representative weeks that MSD determines must be— (a) the 1 week, or the 2, 3, 4, 26, or 52 weeks, before the application or reapplication; and (b) those that MSD is satisfied best represent the parent's ability to financially support the young person in the period during which the relevant benefit is payable and must continue to be paid.	10
	14B Parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated: discretionary reviews under section 304	
	<i>Application</i>	15
	(1) This clause applies if MSD is considering whether a beneficiary was, or would be, entitled to a relevant benefit— (a) in, or as a result of, a discretionary review under section 304; and (b) after MSD becomes aware of a change in the beneficiary's circumstances or of a change in the circumstances of a parent of the beneficiary (for example, because that change is notified under section 113(1) or (1A)); and (c) in the period during which the beneficiary's benefit that is the subject of the review (whether a relevant benefit or any other benefit) is payable and must continue to be paid.	20 25
	<i>Duty to check if specified young person meets parental income requirement</i>	
	(2) MSD must check whether a specified young person (A) meets the parental income requirement if A is— (a) subject to it under section 23A(1); and (b) not required to be taken to meet it under section 23B(2).	30
	<i>How parental income calculated for calculation year</i>	
	(3) In checking whether A meets the parental income requirement, MSD must calculate an applicable parent's parental income for the calculation year by completing the following: (a) determining the representative weeks; and (b) calculating that parent's parental income for the representative weeks that MSD determines (<i>see also</i> clause 14D); and	35

	(c) if the number of the representative weeks that MSD determines is not 52, annualising that parent's parental income for those weeks (<i>see clause 14E</i>).	
	<i>Representative weeks that MSD determines</i>	
(4)	The representative weeks that MSD determines must be either—	5
(a)	the 1 week, or the 2, 3, 4, 26, or 52 weeks, before the change of circumstances (if the applicable parent's parental income has not earlier been assessed under this clause during the duration of the benefit grant); or	
(b)	the 1 week starting on the day after <u>of</u> the change of circumstances (in any other case).	10
14C	Parental income requirement: how parental income is calculated: reviews under subparts 3B to 3D of Part 6	
	<i>Application</i>	
(1)	This clause applies if MSD is considering whether a beneficiary was, or would be, entitled to a relevant benefit in, or as a result of, a review required by—	15
(a)	subpart 3B of Part 6 (child leaves care because of sudden uncontrollable change of circumstances); or	
(b)	subpart 3C of Part 6 (child leaves care for other reason); or	
(c)	subpart 3D of Part 6 (beneficiary or spouse or partner turns 18).	
	<i>Duty to check if specified young person meets parental income requirement</i>	20
(2)	MSD must check whether a specified young person (A) meets the parental income requirement if A is—	
(a)	subject to it under section 23A(1) ; and	
(b)	not required to be taken to meet it under section 23B(2) .	
	<i>How parental income calculated for calculation year</i>	25
(3)	In checking whether A meets the parental income requirement, MSD must calculate an applicable parent's parental income for the calculation year by completing the following:	
(a)	determining the representative weeks; and	
(b)	calculating that parent's parental income for the representative weeks that MSD determines (<i>see also clause 14D</i>); and	30
(c)	if the number of the representative weeks that MSD determines is not 52, annualising that parent's parental income for those weeks (<i>see clause 14E</i>).	
	<i>Representative weeks that MSD determines</i>	35
(4)	The representative weeks that MSD determines must be—	
(a)	the 1 week, or the 2, 3, 4, 26, or 52 weeks, before (as applicable)—	

- (i) the child exclusion date (if **subpart 3B or 3C of Part 6** applies); or
- (ii) the 18th birthday referred to in **subpart 3D of Part 6**; and
- (b) those that MSD is satisfied best represent the parent's ability to financially support the specified young person in the period during which the relevant benefit is or would be payable and must continue to be paid.

14D Further provisions about calculation of parental income

General

- (1) MSD must calculate the applicable parent's parental income for the representative weeks that MSD determines under **clause 14A, 14B, or 14C**, based only on the extent to which it was received, acquired, paid, provided, or supplied in those weeks.

Discretion to disregard certain parental income

- (2) **Subclause (3)** applies in calculating the applicable parent's parental income for the representative weeks that MSD determines under **clause 14B** if—
 - (a) those weeks are the 1 week starting on the day ~~after~~ of the change of circumstances (*see* **clause 14B(4)(b)**); and
 - (b) but for **subclause (3)**, whichever of the following applies would be more than the parental income limit:
 - (i) A's 1 applicable parent's parental income for the calculation year; or
 - (ii) A's 2 applicable parents' combined parental income for the calculation year.
- (3) MSD may disregard income that is not likely to continue for the duration of the benefit grant.

14E How parental income annualised

Application

- (1) This clause applies if the number of the representative weeks that MSD determines under **clause 14A, 14B, or 14C** is not 52.

How income annualised

- (2) MSD annualises an applicable parent's parental income for those weeks by multiplying that income by—
 - (a) 2, if the number of those weeks is 26; or
 - (b) 13, if the number of those weeks is 4; or
 - (c) 17.33333, if the number of those weeks is 3; or
 - (d) 26, if the number of those weeks is 2; or
 - (e) 52, if the number of those weeks is 1.

- (6) In Schedule 3, Part 4 heading, after “**Deprivation of income or property**”, insert “**or of parental income**”.
- (7) In Schedule 3, after clause 16, insert:

16A Effect of deprivation of parental income of applicable parent

- (1) This clause applies if MSD is satisfied that— 5
- (a) a specified young person’s applicable parent has, directly or indirectly, deprived the applicable parent of parental income:
 - (b) the deprivation results in either of the following:
 - (i) the specified young person’s qualifying for a relevant benefit; or
 - (ii) the specified young person’s spouse or partner qualifying for a relevant benefit at a rate of benefit that is payable other than as specified in **section 23C(3) or (4)**. 10
- (2) For the purposes of this clause and of rules under clause 17, deprivation of parental income, by a specified young person’s applicable parent, excludes that parent doing all or any of the things specified in clause 16(1A)(a) to (e). 15
- (3) **Subclause (2)** does not apply to, and does not limit the application of section 9 (UCB beneficiaries must apply for formula assessment) of the Child Support Act 1991 to,—
- (a) an applicant for an unsupported child’s benefit; or
 - (b) the spouse or partner of that applicant; or 20
 - (c) a UCB beneficiary; or
 - (d) the spouse or partner of that UCB beneficiary.
- (4) MSD may refuse to grant a benefit, or cancel or reduce a benefit already granted.
- (5) In this clause and clause 17, **parental income** excludes, for 12 months after the date of the applicable parent’s receipt of the amount, an amount that— 25
- (a) MSD considers is, or might have been, derived by an applicable parent from—
 - (i) an impairment lump sum under Schedule 1 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001; or 30
 - (ii) a lump sum payment of an independence allowance under Part 13 or Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Accident Insurance Act 1998; and
 - (b) is paid to, and received by, the applicable parent, on or after 2 November 2026.
- (6) This clause— 35
- (a) overrides any provisions to the contrary in this Act (under clause 2(3)), Part 6 of the Veterans’ Support Act 2014, or the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001; but

- (b) is subject to any rules prescribed by rules under clause 17.
- (8) In Schedule 3, heading to clause 17, after “**deprivation of income or property**”, insert “**or of parental income**”.
- (9) In Schedule 3, clause 17(1), after “clause 16”, insert “or **16A**”.
- (10) In Schedule 3, replace clause 17(1)(a) with: 5
- (a) relating to either or both of the following:
- (i) the deprivation of income, property, or both:
- (ii) the deprivation of parental income; and
- (11) In Schedule 3, replace clause 17(1A) with:
- (1A) Rules under this clause relating to the deprivation of income, property, or both are subject to clause 16(1A) (under which deprivation of income, property, or both, excludes specified conduct by a person who is an applicant for a benefit, or the spouse or partner of that applicant). 10
- (1B) Rules under this clause relating to the deprivation of parental income are subject to **clause 16A(2)** (under which deprivation of parental income excludes specified conduct by an applicable parent). 15

Part 2

Accommodation supplement: entry threshold percentage for homeowners

- 13 Schedule 1 amended** 20
- In Schedule 1,—
- (a) insert the Part set out in **Schedule 2** of this Act as the last Part; and
- (b) make all necessary consequential amendments.
- 14 Schedule 2 amended**
- In Schedule 2, definition of **community spouse or partner**, paragraph (b), replace “item 6A of Part 7 of Schedule 4” with “**clause 6A** of Part 7 of Schedule 4”. 25
- 15 Schedule 4 amended**
- In Schedule 4, Part 7, replace clauses 4 to 6A with:
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | To a person (other than a specified person) who has 1 or more dependent children and who is in a relationship, or a sole parent with 2 or more dependent children, whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the | 70% of the amount by which an applicant’s weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 40% of the base rate, but not more than— |
| | (a) | \$305 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: |
| | (b) | \$220 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: |
| | (c) | \$160 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: |
| | (d) | \$120 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4 |

	chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the person's home	
4A	To a specified person who has 1 or more dependent children and who is in a relationship, or a sole parent with 2 or more dependent children, whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the specified person's home	70% of the amount by which an applicant's weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 30% of the base rate, but not more than— (a) \$305 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: (b) \$220 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: (c) \$160 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: (d) \$120 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4
5	To a person (other than a specified person) who has no dependent children and who is in a relationship, or a sole parent with 1 dependent child, whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the person's home	70% of the amount by which an applicant's weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 40% of the base rate, but not more than— (a) \$235 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: (b) \$155 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: (c) \$105 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: (d) \$80 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4
5A	To a specified person who has no dependent children and who is in a relationship, or a sole parent with 1 dependent child, whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the specified person's home	70% of the amount by which an applicant's weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 30% of the base rate, but not more than— (a) \$235 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: (b) \$155 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: (c) \$105 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: (d) \$80 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4
6	To any other person (other than a specified person) whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the person's home	70% of the amount by which an applicant's weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 40% of the base rate, but not more than— (a) \$165 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: (b) \$105 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: (c) \$80 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: (d) \$70 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4

6AA	To any other specified person whose accommodation costs are the sum of payments required under any mortgage security, and other payments that the chief executive is satisfied are reasonably required to be made in respect of the specified person's home	70% of the amount by which an applicant's weekly qualifying accommodation costs exceeds 30% of the base rate, but not more than— (a) \$165 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 1: (b) \$105 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 2: (c) \$80 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 3: (d) \$70 a week, if the applicant resides in Area 4
6A	The rate of accommodation supplement payable to a community spouse or partner (as defined in Schedule 2) is the rate in clauses 1 to 6AA that would apply to them if they were single (and their other circumstances were unchanged).	
6B	In clauses 4 to 6AA , specified person means a person, or the spouse or partner of a person, who is receiving— (a) supported living payment on the ground of restricted work capacity or total blindness; or (b) supported living payment on the ground of caring for another person; or (c) emergency benefit, but only if the equivalent benefit under section 63(4) is— (i) supported living payment on the ground of restricted work capacity or total blindness; or (ii) supported living payment on the ground of caring for another person; or (d) New Zealand superannuation; or (e) veteran's pension.	

Schedule 1
New Part 16 inserted into Schedule 1

s 10

Part 16

**Provisions relating to Part 1 (Jobseeker support and equivalent
emergency benefit: tightening eligibility) of Social Security
(Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement)
Amendment Act 2026**

123124 Definitions for this Part

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires,—

amendment Act means the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Act **2026**

amendments means the amendments made by **Part 1** of the amendment Act

pre-commencement notice or advice of expiry, in respect of a relevant benefit, means the notice or advice that a beneficiary (**A**) receives if, before 2 November 2026,—

(a) MSD gives **A** a notice in respect of that benefit stating the matters set out in section 335(1)(a) to (c), as required by section 335(1); or

(b) MSD takes reasonable steps to advise **A** of those matters, in respect of that relevant benefit, as required by section 335(2) and (3)

relevant benefit and **specified young person** have the meanings given to them in **section 23D**.

123125 Amendments apply only to specified relevant benefits

The amendments apply, on and after 2 November 2026, only to a relevant benefit—

(a) applied or reapplied for on or after 2 November 2026; and

(b) not reapplied for after MSD gave any pre-commencement notice or advice of expiry in respect of that relevant benefit; and

(c) granted or regranted as a relevant benefit commencing on or after 2 November 2026.

124126 Application of amendments not affected by otherwise relevant change of circumstances of specified young person

Clause 123125 applies even if the specified young person concerned (**A**) has, before, on, or after 2 November 2026, a change in **A**'s circumstances in relation to a relevant benefit that, but for this clause, would, or may, mean that **A** is sub-

ject to the parental income requirement while that benefit is payable and must continue to be paid.

125127 Application of amendments not affected by otherwise relevant change of circumstances of parent of specified young person

Clause ~~423~~125 applies even if a parent of the specified young person concerned (A) has, before, on, or after 2 November 2026, a change in circumstances in relation to a relevant benefit that, but for this clause, would, or may, mean that A is subject the parental income requirement while that benefit is payable and must continue to be paid.

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Schedule 2
New Part ~~17~~18 inserted into Schedule 1

s 13

Part ~~17~~18

**Provisions relating to Part 2 (~~A~~accommodation supplement: entry
threshold percentage for homeowners) of Social Security (Jobseeker
Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Act 2026**

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~~126~~131 Definitions for this Part

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires,—

amendment Act means the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommo-
dation Supplement) Amendment Act **2026**

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amendments means **clauses 4 to 6B of Part 7 of Schedule 4** (as inserted
by **Part 2** of the amendment Act).

**~~127~~132 Amendments apply only to specified existing or new recipients or
applicants**

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The amendments apply, on or after 1 April 2027, only to the following:

*Recipient of accommodation supplement immediately pre-
commencement*

- (a) a person who, immediately before 1 April 2027, had applied for, was
entitled to receive, and was receiving, an accommodation supplement:

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Application made, and not finally determined, pre-commencement

- (b) an applicant for an accommodation supplement whose application was
made, and was not withdrawn or determined, before 1 April 2027:

Application made on or after date of commencement

- (c) an applicant for an accommodation supplement whose application is
made on or after 1 April 2027.

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Legislative history

14 May 2026

Introduction (Bill 306–1)

19 May 2026

First reading and referral to Social Services and Community
Committee