

Housing Support Programme Amendment 2025

This instrument is made under section 101 of the Social Security Act 2018 by the Minister of Housing.

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Instrument

1 Title

This instrument is the Housing Support Programme Amendment 2025.

2 Commencement

This instrument comes into force on 2 March 2026.

3 Programme amended

This instrument amends the **Housing Support Programme** as established and approved on 13 March 2023 (the **principal programme**).¹

4 Clause 4 amended (Interpretation)

(1) In clause 4(1), in the definition of **service costs**, replace “65(2)” with “65AAA”.

(2) In clause 4(1), in the appropriate alphabetical order, insert:

increase in rent means an increase in rent as required under section 24 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986

5 Clause 12 amended (Restrictions on payments)

(1) In clause 12(1)(b), replace “(2) applies” with “(2) or (5) apply”.

(2) After clause 12(3), insert:

(4) Despite subclause (1)(a), MSD may make a further grant or grants to an eligible person under clause 20(1)(b) for the same accommodation a grant has already been made for under clause 20(1)(a).

(5) Subclause (1)(b) does not apply to grants made under clause 20(1)(b).

6 Clause 15 amended (Transitional provisions)

After clause 15(4), insert:

¹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 February 2023, No. sl455.

- (5) MSD may only make grants under clause 20(1)(b) where an applicant is required to pay a further sum toward a bond due in respect of an increase in rent that takes effect on or after 2 March 2026.

7 Clause 20 amended (Bond grant: Eligibility)

Replace clause 20 with:

- (1) MSD may grant a bond payment to an applicant who meets the criteria in subclause (2) and either:
 - (a) is entering into or renewing an RTA agreement; or
 - (b) is required to pay a further sum towards a bond due to an increase of the rent during an RTA agreement.
- (2) The applicant meets the criteria in this clause if they—
 - (a) meet the universal entrance criteria; and
 - (b) would be unable to obtain or retain the accommodation without a grant under this part; and
 - (c) are required to pay bond.


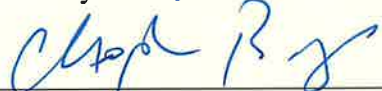
8 Clause 21 amended (Bond grant: Amount)

Replace clause 21 with:

- (1) The amount of a bond grant made under clause 20(1)(a) must not exceed the lesser of the following amounts:
 - (a) the amount of bond payable by the applicant and their spouse or partner under an RTA agreement; or
 - (b) the amount equivalent to 4 weeks' accommodation costs for the accommodation; or
 - (c) if the applicant is in shared accommodation, the applicant's and their spouse or partner's portion of 4 weeks' accommodation costs.
- (2) The amount of a bond grant made under clause 20(1)(b) must not exceed the lesser of either the:
 - (a) further sum required towards a bond due to an increase of rent; or
 - (b) amount equivalent to 4 weeks of the amount of the increase in rent.
- (3) When determining whether to grant a bond grant, and the grant amount, MSD may have regard to whether the applicant or their spouse or partner has, or will have at the time the bond is payable, access to a refund of a bond payment for their former accommodation.

9 Clause 25 amended (Security cover grant: Conditional grant)

In clause 25(1)(e)(ii), after “Disputes Tribunal” insert “, Tenancy Tribunal”.


 At this 23rd day of October 2025

 Minister of Housing

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the instrument, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This instrument, which comes into force on 2 March 2026, amends the Housing Support Programme by making a consequential amendment to the definition of ‘service costs’, to ensure that definition continues to retain the same meaning which will be defined in section 65AAA of the Social Security Act 2018 from 2 March 2025 when the Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Act 2025 comes into force.

This instrument also amends the Programme to:

- allow for bond grants to be made during the course of a tenancy, where the applicant is required to make a further payment towards their bond, following an increase of rent; and
- enable a security cover grant to be made for costs that the Tenancy Tribunal has determined that the applicant is required to pay.