

Instrument amending Ministerial Directions and Welfare Programmes (Contributions from Boarders) 2025

This instrument is made under sections 7 and 101 of the Social Security Act 2018 by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

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Instrument

1 Title

This instrument is the Instrument amending Ministerial Directions and Welfare Programmes (Contributions from Boarders) 2025.

2 Commencement

This instrument comes into force on 2 March 2026.

3 Principal directions and welfare programmes amended

This instrument amends the directions and welfare programmes specified in Schedules 1 and 2 (the **principal directions and welfare programmes**).

4 Amendments

Amend the principal directions and welfare programmes in the manner set out in Schedules 1 and 2.

Schedule 1

cl 4

Amendments to directions

Direction in relation to Special Benefit (given on 10 February 1999)¹

Clause 2

In clause 2.1, revoke the definition of **Accommodation costs**.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **Allowable costs**, replace “**Allowable costs**” with “**allowable costs**”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **Allowable costs**, replace “actual accommodation costs” with “weekly qualifying accommodation costs”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **Allowable costs**, in paragraph (l) replace “.” with “;”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **Allowable costs**, after paragraph (l) insert:

(m) the difference between the applicant’s weekly accommodation costs and weekly qualifying accommodation costs, as set out in clause 7 of Part 7 of Schedule 4 of the Act.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **specified area boundary error**, replace “within the meaning of” with “as defined in”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **specified boundary error**, after “the Social Security Act 1964” insert “before it was repealed on 26 November 2018”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **specified processing error**, replace “within the meaning of” with “as defined in”.

In clause 2.1, in the definition of **specified processing error**, after “the Social Security Act 1964” insert “before it was repealed on 26 November 2018”.

In clause 2.1, after the definition of Transitional housing contribution, insert the following definition:

weekly qualifying accommodation costs has the same meaning as in clause 7 of Part 7 of Schedule 4 of the Act.

Direction in relation to the preferred supply of goods and services (given on 23 May 2013)²

Clause 3

In clause 3(1), replace the definition of **premises** with:

¹ New Zealand Gazette 16 December 1999, No. 193, page 4600.

² New Zealand Gazette 13 June 2013, No. 74, page 1978.

premises, in relation to a person, means the place the person occupies as a home

Ministerial Direction on Redirection of Benefit Payments (given on 17 March 2015)³

Clause 3

In clause 3(1), in the appropriate alphabetical order, insert:

premises, in relation to a person, means the place the person occupies as a home

In clause 3(2), replace “section 66” with “section 68(2)”.

³ New Zealand Gazette 26 March 2015, No. 32, page 3746.

Schedule 2

cl 4

Amendments to welfare programmes

Away from Home Allowance Programme (as established and approved on 19 January 1998)⁴

Clause 7

In clause 7.1, replace “accommodation costs” with “weekly qualifying accommodation costs”.

Replace clause 7.3 with:

7.3 In this clause, “weekly qualifying accommodation costs” has the meaning in clause 7 of Part 7 of Schedule 4 of the Act.

Community Costs Programme (as established and approved on 15 March 2006)⁵

Clause 4

In clause 4(1), in the definition of **premises**, delete “; and includes any room or other accommodation he or she would otherwise occupy as a home as a boarder or lodger”

Special Transfer Allowance Programme 2000 (as established and approved on 13 November 2000)⁶

Clause 4

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

In clause 4(2), replace “65, 66” with “65AAA”.

In clause 5(1), after “19,” insert “65AAA,”.



Minister for Social Development and Employment

At Cambridge this 28th day of October 2025

⁴ New Zealand Gazette 29 January 1998, No. 14, page 349.

⁵ New Zealand Gazette 23 March 2006, No. 27, page 729.

⁶ New Zealand Gazette 16 November 2000, No. 154, page 3995.

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 three Ministerial directions and three Ministerial welfare programmes under the Social Security Act 2018 in response to the amendments made through the Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Act 2025 (the Amendment Act). The Ministerial directions and Ministerial welfare programmes that are being amended are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 of this Instrument.

The changes are necessary as the Amendment Act repeals sections 65(2) and 66(3) of the Social Security Act 2018 (the Act), which define “accommodation costs” and “premises” respectively. Where relevant, references to “accommodation costs” or “weekly accommodation costs” have been replaced by “weekly qualifying accommodation costs” in order to be consistent with the changes made by the Amendment Act. Definitions of “premises” have also been updated in response to the changes in the Amendment Act.

These amendments ensure that these Ministerial directions and welfare programmes continue to operate as intended following the changes made by the Amendment Act.

The amendments also make minor editorial corrections.