

Disabled people and people with health conditions – improving employment and wider wellbeing

As part of the Wellbeing Budget the Government is supporting disabled people and people with health conditions into work.

Budget 2019

- **Access to meaningful employment and adequate income, alongside addressing other health and wellbeing needs, is vital to support good mental health and wellbeing.**
- The 2019 Budget includes \$26.3 million over four years for initiatives aiming to support access to meaningful employment for disabled people and people with health conditions.
- Funding, over two years, has been provided to continue trials under the Oranga Mahi programme that integrate employment and health supports and services for clients, including those with mental health and addiction needs.
- The programme aims to improve a client's health and wellbeing, supporting them to move towards employment. The trials are run in partnership with health organisations, such as District Health Boards and Primary Health Organisations.
- This funding will enable us to continue and build on some of the current Oranga Mahi prototypes, as well as develop and test new approaches.
- The 2019 Budget also includes funding for disability Employment Services to support more people to find and stay in work. These contracted services provide tailored support to disabled people and people with health conditions to help them with their employment aspirations.
- Additionally, there is funding to support an increase in Support Funds to meet expected demand. This helps disabled people and their employers/training providers with additional costs they may face as a direct consequence of their disability (for example, New Zealand Sign Language interpreters).

This funding will improve the wellbeing of disabled people and people with health conditions and their whānau - and help more people to be earning or learning.