



Muscular Dystrophy New Zealand

PANEL GUIDELINES

MDA Member's Discretionary Fund

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to provide discretionary grants for individuals with a neuromuscular condition (*covered by the MDA) to access opportunities and specialised resources that enable them to achieve their full potential.

Eligibility to Apply

- Applicant has a neuromuscular condition (*covered by the MDA)
- Applicant is a registered member of the MDA
- Applicant is applying on behalf of a Rangatahi or Tamariki member
- Government funding is not available
- Prospective application falls within 3 months of closing date
- Where application is for retrospective refund, event must have been within 3 months of closing date
- Requests for therapies of an ongoing nature are out of scope for this discretionary fund

Goodness of Fit

- Effectiveness of opportunity or resource has been demonstrated (e.g. creatine monohydrate versus fish oil supplements for a person living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy)
- Risk of harm, either to the individual, or the MDA (including reputational harm)
- Consistency with MDA vision, mission and values

Affordability

- MDA has funds available
- One off purchase versus ongoing expenses (panel to consider ethical implications of funding something one year, but not the next)
- Ability of the applicant to make up the difference when the application is for partial funding limitations (panel to consider 3 month timeframe)
- Consider whether previous funding has been provided by MDA and whether the individual fulfilled their obligations

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Alternative funding sources

- What are the funding options available in this instance? If no other alternatives are available, a higher score should be given.

Individual Impact

- The individual has explained what the opportunity or resource will do to enhance their life or help them to achieve potential.

Decision Making Grid

Each panel member will score applications using the following grid.

Individual scores will be discussed along with relevant information to assist with decision making.

Score each application on a scale of 1 to 5
1 = low 3 = med 5 = high

Name	Item	Amount Requested (full or partial)	Eligible	Goodness of Fit	Affordability	Alternative Funding Sources	Individual Impact	Total Score
			Y/N					
			Y/N					
			Y/N					
			Y/N					
			Y/N					

Partial Funding

Where partial funding is approved, this is valid for three months and will be paid subject to evidence of purchase and/ or proof of remaining funds for purchase.

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