



# 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 freedom beyond limits.

#### 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 support them to achieve freedom beyond limits.

## 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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