



Muscular Dystrophy New Zealand

INFORMATION SHEET

MDA Member's Discretionary Fund

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to provide discretionary grants for individuals with a neuromuscular condition to access opportunities and specialised resources that enable them to have freedom beyond limits.

This fund was made possible by a bequest from Mr Bruce Cochrane. The fund is held and administered by the National Office of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand (MDA) and began receiving applications in March 2016.

Who can apply?

Individuals diagnosed with a neuromuscular condition (*covered by the MDA) and who are registered as General or Life members of the MDA are eligible to apply.

A parent or guardian can apply on behalf of Rangatahi and Tamariki members.

How much can I apply for?

Grant applications will be considered on a case by case basis. Grants will not exceed \$1,500.00 per year (Jan to Dec), per individual member.

What can I apply for?

The MDA wants to support members with neuromuscular conditions to have freedom of choice in a responsive society. On the application form, you will need to tell us how the resource or opportunity will enhance and promote freedom in your life.

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Examples of grant applications that might be considered under this fund are;

- Specialised sports equipment
- Contribution towards the costs of a Mobility Dog
- Travel to attend an international forum for a rare condition
- Participation in a sporting event
- Career development (e.g. university fees, course fees)

What can't I apply for?

MDANZ will **not** consider applications for items or activities which currently meet government funding criteria. For example, if you are eligible to receive equipment from the Ministry of Health, MDANZ will not fund it. Where relevant, MDANZ may request a letter to show that government funding has been declined.

Funding for therapies and treatments of an ongoing nature will not be considered at this stage due to the "one off" nature of the grant. MDANZ will continue to advocate for better provision of therapies by health and education services.

MDANZ will also **not** consider grants for an activity or resource that has not been proven as beneficial to people with neuromuscular conditions, that has a risk of causing harm, or that is inconsistent with best practice guidelines.

How to Apply

Send your completed application form along with a quote and supporting documents;

By email to: info@mda.org.nz

Or in hard copy to: MDA Member's Discretionary Fund
Muscular Dystrophy Association
P O Box 12063
Penrose
Auckland 1642

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How will the decision be made?

All applications will be considered by a representative panel. The panel will be led by the MDA Chief Executive and will include one representative from National Council and one representative from each of the Branch Committees.

The panel will meet four times per year. Retrospective applications that fall within 3 months of the closing date will be considered. The panel will use a set of guidelines to evaluate all applications. These guidelines are available on the MDA website.

Closing dates for each funding round will be:

31st January

30th April

31st July

31st October

Closing dates may be extended at the discretion of the Chief Executive.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be informed of the outcome within four weeks from the closing date of the funding round.

How do I purchase or pay for the item or activity?

The item or activity should be purchased using one of the following processes;

1. Member supplies a copy of the invoice and receipt to the MDA to show they have purchased the item. The MDA reimburses the agreed amount to the member.
2. The member arranges for the supplier to send an invoice to MDA directly, and MDA pays for the item.

What else do I need to consider?

The amount MDA can give is subject to available funding and there is no guarantee of funding towards ongoing costs year after year.

Successful applications will be promoted by MDA through the In Touch magazine and other media. As a successful applicant you will need to agree to have your story and photo included in MDA media.

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