



25 NOV 2015

Aaron Goodwin-O'Neill
fyi-request-3282-facf9366@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Goodwin-O'Neill

Thank you for your email of 25 October 2015 asking whether the Ministry provides funding for cosmetic surgery for non-medical reasons. You are aware of someone who purports to have received funding for cosmetic breast surgery. I am replying on behalf of the Chief Executive.

The Ministry does not have a policy for providing this type of cosmetic surgery. As part of transitioning a person into work, the only policies the Ministry administers are Special Needs Grants for laser therapy removal of birthmarks and tattoo removal costs. You can read about them at these links:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/laser-therapy-for-the-removal-of-birthmarks-01.html

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/employment-and-work-readiness-assistance/assistance-to-transition-into-employment-01.html

There is also an employment programme for people who receive a Supported Living Payment who want to work but need support to achieve their goal. The Programme is called PATHS and helps people access a wide range of health, employment and community services which would assist them to return to work. The PATHS service is provided through partnerships between: Work and Income, District Health Boards, Primary Health Organisations and Community Mental Health Non-Government Organisations and is available in five regions. You can read about this programme at the link below.

www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-services.html

I trust my reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Sutherland
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services