



Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Inc.

Providing a community to support parents of children with vision impairments

Welcome to 2025!!

We hope you had a chance to slow down and enjoy a break during the summer holiday period and Christmas festivities. With January drawing to a close, the school terms are about to kick off for a new year. Our first Board face-to-face will be held in early February. The board is looking forward to setting the years priorities and developing our key strategic objectives, conference dates, and keep our organisation running well. If you have any ideas, please let us know! You can read who our Board representatives are [here \(or send us an email!\)](#), and they are also listed on the [PVI Website](#).

Carer Support and NASC assessments

Carers NZ has provided the following answers for families on Carer Support and NASC reviews:

CARER SUPPORT: Yes, you can use this to pay someone in your household for relief care; you can use it to pay someone aged 14+ (not 18+); and you can use it for relief care while you are working outside the home. In Auckland incorrect communication from the NASC confused some families. The system hasn't reverted to those old rules. Keep claiming as above even if you were given the wrong information. If in doubt, talk to the NASC.

NASCs **should not** tell you they are only allocating support for disabled people with high/complex needs. This is not government policy. You **should not** be told that there is a cap on Carer Support allocations. That's not how the policy works.

If this happened to you, please [message Carers NZ](#) as they are running point on these issues.

Some reviews and assessments have resulted in disabled people receiving **less support** than in the past. This is because allocations are being made consistent across New Zealand for similar needs. NASCs all have the authority to look at your individual situation – for example, there may be reasons why you need more support than the allocation given to others with similar needs. NASCs have been told they have to allocate within a finite budget in the current financial year to the end of June 2025. If you are concerned about your review or assessment then please let Carers NZ know ([DM](#), [email](#), or phone 0800 777 797) and they will try to help clarify and can escalate issues as needed.

January advocacy

This year there were several legislative Bills coming into Select Committee that have potential to impact on our families in less-than-helpful ways. PVI drew on our position statements, key values, and constitution, as well as core documents like the Bill of Rights Act, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New Zealand Disability Strategy, and Enabling Good Lives Principles in making the following submissions:

- [BLVNZ/RNZFB policies up for renewal](#)
- [Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill](#)
- [Oranga Tamariki \(Responding to Serious Youth Offending\) Amendment Bill](#)
- [Responding to Abuse in Care Legislation Amendment Bill](#)
- [Social Security Amendment Bill](#)
- [Regulatory Standards Bill](#)



A new school year can bring new challenges. Below are a few useful education-related links:

- [What is an IEP \(Individual Education Plan\)?](#) This is a plain language guide from Parent to Parent - with handy links to additional information included.
- What services are available from Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ)? See this [overview from BLENNZ](#).
- Download the [Vision Book – My Child, Our Journey](#). This is a great resource with information for families and whānau about children who are blind, deafblind or have low vision. It was published in 2014 by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Ministry of Health, BLENNZ and Blind Low Vision, and much of the information remains useful and relevant.
- An easily readable blog about navigating visual fatigue, environmental barriers, and school attitude solutions [here](#).
- The Ministry of Education's [Inclusive Education site](#) has a list of local and national agencies that provide educational support and services.
- The [Perkin's School for the Blind](#) has a wealth of information and teaching resources across a range of educational topics.

Disability Support Services (DSS) have another consultation round coming

We will keep you posted on how to be involved, what PVI's perspective is, and what the DSS staff are wanting to know from disabled people and their whānau who receive essential disability support after an assessment from a NASC or EGL site



Disability Support Services

Community consultation coming up:
10 February - 24 March 2025

Thank you for reading

That's all folks, thank you for getting this far! We will continue to email out information and to post news on our [Facebook page](#) and in our [private Facebook group](#) for parents. If you want to support the work that PVI does, you can donate via the button below.

[Donate to support PVI](#)

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