

House of Representatives
Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 8 May 2007

Social Security Amendment Bill

Proposed amendment

Hon David Benson-Pope to move the following amendment:

New clause 33A

To insert the following clause after *clause 33* (after line 24 on page 24):

33A Effect of absence of beneficiary from New Zealand

Section 77(4) is amended by repealing paragraph (b) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(b) the person is in receipt of an invalid’s benefit granted on the grounds of his or her sickness, injury, disability, or total blindness, and is absent from New Zealand in order to receive vocational training or disability assistance-dog training; and the chief executive is satisfied that—

“(i) the training is an activity, or is linked to a goal, included in the person’s personal development and employment plan; and

“(ii) the person could not obtain the training in New Zealand during the period or periods of absence.”

Explanatory note

Proposed *new clause 33A* replaces section 77(4)(b) of the principal Act with an expanded provision. As it is to be inserted into *Part 2* of the Bill, the new clause will come into force on 24 September 2007.

In general, a benefit is not payable to a beneficiary who is absent from New Zealand.

There are a number of exceptions; and one of them is contained in section 77(4)(b), which at present provides that the chief executive of the Ministry of Social Development may pay a benefit to a beneficiary who is absent from New Zealand while receiving vocational or guide-dog training. But—

- the beneficiary must be in receipt of an invalid's benefit granted on the grounds of the beneficiary's total blindness; and
- the chief executive must be satisfied that the beneficiary could not obtain the training in New Zealand.

The expanded provision provides that the chief executive may pay a benefit to any beneficiary who is in receipt of an invalid's benefit on the grounds of sickness, injury, disability, or total blindness, and is absent from New Zealand in order to receive vocational training or disability assistance-dog training, if—

- the training is an activity, or is linked to a goal, included in the beneficiary's personal development and employment plan; and
 - the chief executive is satisfied that the beneficiary could not obtain the training in New Zealand.
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