

It's not for everyone, but Individualised Funding for younger disabled people appeals to those who want to organise and manage their own support services. Learn more about Individualised Funding at the Ministry of Health's website, www.moh.govt.nz

IF for Kristal

In October last year our 19 year old daughter moved into her own flat, one she rents herself, and manages with all of its normal expenses and the challenges of living on a budget.

This was our dream – that one day Kristal would go flatting like any other young woman.

But unlike most young women Kristal, with our help, has had to really advocate for the lifestyle she wanted. A lifestyle that most New Zealanders take for granted.

We persevered and now, with the help of Individualised Funding, Kristal has her own home and her own support staff to help her live independently.

Together we planned an annual budget for Kristal's support needs covering staff training, ACC, PAYE, contingency funding for more help should Kristal get sick, and extra costs for school holiday periods.

We sent the budget to the local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agency (NASC), which forwarded it to the Ministry of Health for consideration for Individualised Funding.

Our documentation was very detailed. We used paperwork supplied by Manawatu In Charge for information about staffing, and flexible employment contracts we obtained through another organisation.

As we live in a student city, we employ young students to support Kristal. We advertise through Student Job Search, which is free, and the service is fantastic. This has been awesome for Kristal and good for the students, who are mostly occupational therapy, nursing, medical, social work, or education students.

“UNLIKE MOST YOUNG WOMEN KRISTAL, WITH OUR HELP, HAD TO REALLY ADVOCATE FOR THE LIFESTYLE SHE WANTED ... A LIFESTYLE THAT MOST PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED. WITH THE HELP OF INDIVIDUALISED FUNDING, KRISTAL NOW HAS HER OWN HOME AND HER OWN SUPPORT STAFF SO SHE CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.”



**Zumba, potluck dinners, nightclubbing and a place of her own, thanks to IF!
By Kristal's Dad, Derek Cooke.**

Before anyone is employed Kristal meets with them; we are guided by how she responds to applicants and whether they have a rapport with her.

As parents we do the employing paperwork, contracts, most of the staff training, and have opted to manage all the wages and related work ourselves.

It may seem like a lot of work, but we have sorted ourselves into 'roles' that work for us.

One of us handles most of the staffing related tasks and pays the wages, while the other works out all the financial issues.

Great teamwork!

Kristal has grown into her new role and loves being in her own home.

She is involved in all aspects of her home to the degree she is able to be involved.

Sometimes cooking dinner is just an inconvenience, so support staff have that role! But that is Kristal's choice.

Kristal enjoys a great social life, with support so she can fully participate.

She goes to Zumba, plays basketball, has a paper round, and goes nightclubbing once a month.

She enjoys having her friends over on a regular basis for potluck dinners, and her house is becoming a drop-in place for her young friends.

As a family we are grateful for the lifestyle that Individualised Funding has helped Kristal to achieve.

We felt we had made the right decision going with IF and now, six months later, we are positive!

The growth and independence we have witnessed in Kristal has highlighted that IF will be a positive choice for quite a few years to come.

Q I receive Individualised Funding and have been told I need to have a 'zero balance' in the account I operate from the end of my contract, 20 March 2011. However, I have been advised that I will not be billed for ACC levies until 31 March. I do my own payroll to maximise the money available to purchase support for my daughter. I have spoken to my IF Coach about this and was told she would get back to me weeks ago. She has not yet done this. Any ideas about what I should do?

IF MUM



A Here is the Ministry of Health's response:

We assume you have been advised by your IF Host Provider to have a zero balance in the account so you are able to make full use of the available resources during the period which ended on 20 March 2011.

Each person who receives IF funding is allocated resources for a specific period (usually a year, but in some cases it may be less).

Your daughter's Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) service allocates a number of hours for that period.

Hours that aren't used cannot be carried forward to the next

funding period. This is a change from IF arrangements before 1 December 2009.

Since then, each funding period has been treated as a separate, standalone funding allocation. Questions about invoicing for accrued costs are usually best directed to the Finance Manager of the IF Host agency or to an accountant.

With regard to the ACC levies, if you are receiving a regular IF funding allocation, you would not be required to pay more than one ACC levy account per funding period.

Funding will, therefore, always be available for this purpose if you budget correctly.

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Take charge of your life
with the original pioneers
of Individualised Funding (IF)



IF enables people to choose who provides their support

As the foremost provider of Individualised Funding in New Zealand, Manawanui InCharge helps people and families take charge of their lives and enjoy more personal freedom.

For more information visit

www.incharge.org.nz
FREEPHONE 0508 INCHARGE (462 427)

- 1 Employ the staff you want in your life – people who understand your culture, priorities, preferences and lifestyle choices
- 2 Enjoy a better social life because you get to set your own timetable rather than living by somebody else's
- 3 Negotiate rates of pay that ensure the service quality you desire

 **manawanui**
INDIVIDUALISED FUNDING SUPPORT