

On 1 April 2015 Child Support laws are changing

- There will be a new way of working out Child Support
- As a result, the amount you pay or receive might change

Find out more about the changes including examples, calculators and a short video explaining the changes and what they might mean for you at:

ird.govt.nz/childsupport-changes



View our video here

You can check your Child Support payments online. Go to ird.govt.nz and register for myIR or download our mobile web app.

Keeping your email address up-to-date in myIR is more important as we start providing more information on-line ird.govt.nz

Child Support is changing



Why is Child Support changing?

Things have moved on since Child Support was first launched, over 20 years ago, in 1992.

Family life for Kiwis is different now, and the changes to Child Support are designed to reflect that, and to better balance the interests of both parents.

Help us get your assessment right

Find out more about the changes to Child Support at ird.govt.nz/childsupport-changes

We'll be in touch if we need any new information from you.

In February 2015, we'll send you a notice letting you know how much you will pay or receive.

A new way of working out Child Support

From 1 April 2015, there will be a new way of working out Child Support. This means the amount you pay or receive might change.

Here's what's changing:

- The incomes of both parents will be taken into account – at the moment we only use the liable parent's income.
- More of the care both parents provide will be taken into account – currently most Child Support only takes into account if you care for a child for 40% of the time. After 1 April 2015, this threshold will lower to 28% (103 nights or more a year, or two nights a week).
- Both parents will receive assessments which may include allowances for any other children of their own who live with them. This allowance will be based on the children's ages, and the current cost of raising children in New Zealand.
- Parents' assessments will no longer include allowances for partners, or children living with them who are not their own.

Do you receive a sole parent or unsupported child benefit?

Parents or caregivers who receive a social security benefit (e.g. Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment or Jobseeker Support) from Work and Income New Zealand *must* arrange Child Support through us.

The changes to Child Support won't affect your benefit. You'll still receive any Child Support paid over and above the amount of your benefit.

Private arrangements and voluntary agreements

Many parents living apart make private arrangements for the financial support of their children, or ask us to administer a voluntary agreement. The Child Support scheme is a back up for parents who are unable or unwilling to arrange this.

You won't be affected by these changes if you have a private Child Support arrangement or voluntary agreement.

More changes in 2016

From 1 April 2016, we are making further changes to improve Child Support, including a new administrative review ground and a lower maximum age of eligibility. There will also be new debt and penalty rules to help if you fall behind with payments.