

# Family Circumstances

52 Support for students at educational risk because  
of their family circumstances

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## Needs of student

### **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT EDUCATIONAL RISK BECAUSE OF THEIR FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES**

A student at your school is 14 years old, or older, and because of their difficult home circumstances face barriers to learning.

At your primary school you think a student's education, health and wellbeing are at risk because of their difficult family circumstances.

You have a student at your school who has difficult family circumstances and the family is working with more than two agencies.

## Help available

### **Fund for student to board**

Mapihi Pounamu funding is available for hostel boarding fees at a state, or state-integrated secondary school.

### **Social workers in primary schools**

Social workers are based in clusters of decile 1-3 schools. Social workers are independent of schools, and families engage with the service voluntarily.

### **Strengthening families**

Strengthening Families provides coordinated support for these families. Everyone works together to develop joint solutions.

## How to get it

Mapihi Pounamu funding is available to students of all ethnic groups. Parents or caregivers apply with a referral by stipulated social or educational agencies. For an application form, guidelines and a list of suitable schools, go to the Ministry of Education website: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

The student, family or your staff at school can make a referral. Services are non-statutory and voluntary, ie, families must consent to using the service and participating. For more information please go to the Child, Youth and Family website: [www.cyf.govt.nz/3629.htm](http://www.cyf.govt.nz/3629.htm)

The family or staff at your school can make a referral to the Strengthening Families programme. The family can be approached by a staff member from an agency they are involved with, or they can ask to become involved in the programme themselves. Participation is voluntary and Strengthening Families meetings only occur with the consent of the parents or caregivers.

To contact your local Strengthening Families Coordinator, go to the Strengthening Families website: [www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz)

## What to expect

The maximum entitlement for each student is \$7,500 per year. Where the student is also receiving a Government Boarding Bursary, this is deducted from the grant.

Social workers work with families to: eliminate violence in the home, establish good family routines for children and improve family problem-solving and communication.

A plan is made that sets out what each agency is going to do. One agency worker is selected to oversee the plan and to make sure the family is kept informed of progress.