

What is the purpose of Disability Swimming Fund?

At Swimming New Zealand, we believe swimming is for all and swimming is for life – regardless of whether someone has a disability/impairment or not. We also believe through the enjoyment of the water and swimming you can improve your well-being.

Statistically, we know raising a child with a disability can be more expensive. We also know for those living with an impairment gaining water confidence or learning how to swim can take longer depending on the individual's impairment/s.

We are seeking to alleviate part of the cost barrier and connect our local expertise with the participant and their swim school to support a positive experience early in their aquatic experience.

This contestable Fund seeks to be a connector between the varying levels of learning to swim and participating in recreational and/or organised club swimming.

Swimming is a life skill, regardless of whether someone lives with a disability/impairment or not.

Who can apply and what can be applied for?

Those living with a disability aged 6 - 24 years wanting to either learn how to swim or are early into their learning to swim journey. This includes lesson/s and/or coaching expenses for learning in either a group or one-on-one setting.

We encourage individuals to apply. However, applications from swim schools, teachers, or coaches on behalf of individuals (with their permission) will also be accepted.

Swimming equipment and/or adaptation can be applied for also.

In aligning with the purpose of the fund, we are not aiming to cover all expenses associated with learning to swim but rather alleviating part of and offering a koha towards the cost barrier.

This fund is aimed at the following:

Disability types:

- Intellectual (including developmental delays)
- Invisible
- Hearing
- Brain injury
- Short stature
- Vision
- Cerebral palsy
- Other physical impairments
- Long term health conditions

Demographic focus:

- Tamariki
- Rangatahi
- Pacifica communities
- Maori
- Women and Girls

The fund gives preference to those living with an intellectual or invisible impairment.

What is the process and criteria?

Application forms are to be submitted via email to dsf@swimming.org.nz.

Applications are reviewed quarterly – **closing March 31, June 30, September 30, December 23.**

We are trying to keep the process as simple as possible for applicants so ask for minimal supporting documents. However, an up-to-date quote is needed to validate the cost, equipment, and session setting (i.e. one-on-one or group).

For successful applicants, funding will be paid directly to the swim teacher/coach or their swim school. Funds must be used within 6 months of approval date.

Retrospective applications will not be accepted.

Funding decisions are final.