

New Zealand

Distinctive Features: No explicit family policy; targeted, income-tested benefits; decrease in benefit levels since the mid 1980s

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Paid and job-protected maternity and parental leave; extended unpaid, job-protected leave
Eligibility Criteria	Universal for working parents employed by same employer for at least one year.
Duration of Leave	Paid maternity leave, can be shared with partner: 12 weeks; Unpaid parental leave: additional 40 weeks
Benefit Levels	Paid leave: full-wage replaced or flat rate worth about half an average wage, whichever is lower.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	0 – 5
Eligibility Criteria	Universal
Fees	Income-related parent fees
Locus of Care	Preschools, centers
Funding Strategies	Govt. and parent fees
Access/Coverage (%)	Ages 0–1 (11%), 1-2 (30%), 2-3 (51%), 3-4 (90%), 4-6 (100%). Total 0-5 (56%)

Family and Child Allowances

Benefit & Eligibility	Universal family allowance has been replaced by series of income-tested benefits, tax credits and special benefits.
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Child and Family Tax Benefits

Tax Deductions/Relief	Income tax unit is the couple; tax credits for low-income families with children and once is refundable.
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's benefits; dependent's benefit for child of old age pensioner; special benefit for a disabled child
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Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage Universal coverage through national health service; income-related fees for service

Housing Benefits

Benefit	Income-tested housing benefit for low-income families with children
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School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School 6 – 16

Youth Policies

Distinctive Features Special youth unemployment benefit (ages 18–24) and youth disability benefit (ages 16-17). See also, government plan for youth (Youth Development Strategy)