



Making it easier to care – Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act

Caring for a disabled family member can be challenging enough without the added burden of onerous auditing and endless paperwork.

Thanks go to a submitter for letting us know how hard the system had made it to manage the income and assets of someone lacking decision-making capability.

Under the Protection of Personal & Property Rights Act 1988 (PPPR Act) carers who manage income and assets on behalf of someone lacking decision-making capability were subjected to a range of regulation.

One problem was the low thresholds at which the regulatory regime kicked in – the individual income threshold was \$20,000 and asset threshold was just \$5,000. A significant regulatory burden was imposed on income or assets managed on behalf of someone above these amounts.

Once the threshold was met, the PPPR required the formal appointment of a property manager (process, time and energy costs), along with ongoing reporting and audit requirements.

We considered the regime to be unnecessarily onerous for these very low income and asset threshold amounts, which we found hadn't been updated in years.

What did we do?

We worked with our agency partner, the Ministry of Justice to highlight these concerns and support changes to the income and asset thresholds.

From 3 October 2024, income thresholds increased from \$20,000 to \$38,800 and will continue to rise in stages to \$45,000 over the next 5 years. The asset threshold was also increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

What is the benefit for New Zealanders?

This change is making life easier for parents and caregivers who step into this important supporting role, allowing them to get on with what's important.

Feedback from submitter to Ministry for Regulation

“...I've been “heard” many times but action towards tangible change hasn't come along with it until now. You don't know what this means to me.”