

Submission from New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services

Trevor Mackie, Executive Officer

Tuesday, 24 March 2009

First point:

The only question Trevor has is 'what if someone needs a well heated house, to maintain their health?'. Does the form that DHB's fill in and give to the medically dependent cover that situation and is it intended to?

Trevor also wonders about how it will work for people who may have very fragile health and if their power gets cut, they get cold and then pass away. Also at risk babies.

So basically, Trevor is concerned, not just people with medically dependent equipment, but also people with a medical condition. Access to a continuous power source may be essential. People whose ability to survive is dependent on having electricity supplied to the house.

He is concerned the definition of 'Medically Dependent' might be a bit narrow.

Second point:

At the time this was all being put together Trevor was concerned about there being a mono-lingual approach. Would people don't speak English as a first language know to ask for the form etc? How will they know that it needs to be provided to their electricity retailer?

What are the processes and who has responsibility that the client has the form and that they know what to do with the form?