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December 2023



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs FDFA**

AGEING WELL ABROAD

Prevention & Information

Specific information for New Zealand



Healthcare

The healthcare system in New Zealand is made up of a mixture of public and private care. The public healthcare system offers heavily subsidised care, for anyone who is eligible. It is often admired but due to rapid population growth, the waiting times can be long. Signing up for both public and private healthcare systems has therefore become very popular.

- + In an emergency (police, fire or ambulance) dial 111
- + Health Care New Zealand (<https://www.healthcarenz.co.nz/>)
- + For free healthlines call 0800 611 116

For information purposes only. The Swiss representation assumes no liability:

- + List of hospitals: <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/certified-providers/public-hospital>
- + Approved medical practitioners: <https://www.mcnz.org.nz/registration/register-of-doctors/>



Medical expenses

You may be eligible for New Zealand's public healthcare system, for which the government pays most of the costs. If you are not eligible, make sure you have an appropriate private health insurance. For more information see:

<https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/live-in-new-zealand/healthcare/paying-for-healthcare-services>

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- + <https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/living-abroad/health-insurance/insurance-with-international-solutions>
- + Southern Cross: <https://www.southerncross.co.nz/society>
- + Axa Global Insurance: <https://www.axaglobalhealthcare.com/en/wellbeing/global-access/new-zealands-healthcare-system/>



Care homes

Seniorline provides information for older people about residential care, community services and how to get help at home.

- + Freephone : 0800 725 463 (NZ only)
- + Phone : +64 9 375 43 96
- + Email : seniorline@adhb.govt.nz
- + Website : seniorline.org.nz

For information purposes only. The Swiss representation assumes no liability:

- + <https://www.bupa.co.nz/care-homes/>
- + <https://www.eldernet.co.nz/>
- + <https://radiuscare.co.nz/>



Wills

This area of law is covered by the Wills Act 2007 ("the Act"). The Act gives a will-maker significant powers. However, *most of those powers are not applicable to wills made before 1 November 2007*, so if you want to take advantage of them, you will need to remake your will, even if you don't want to change its general effect.

- + <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2007/0036/latest/whole.html>
- + <https://www.nzwillregistry.co.nz/>
- + <https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/death-and-bereavement/probate-and-wills/>

For information purposes only. The Swiss representation assumes no liability:

- + <https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/>
- + <https://communitylaw.org.nz/>
- + <https://www.justice.govt.nz/courts/going-to-court/legal-aid/get-legal-aid/legal-aid-lawyer-finder/>



Post-death arrangements

If someone dies, it is important to let the right people know as soon as possible. The authorities you will need to contact will depend on how the person died, as each situation will be handled differently. If you are using a funeral director, they will register the death with Births, Deaths and Marriages. If you are organising the funeral yourself, or not holding one, you will need to register the death. For detailed procedures visit the following websites:

- + <https://endoflife.services.govt.nz/find-out#phase-462>
- + <https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/death-and-bereavement/what-you-need-to-do-when-someone-dies/>
- + Births, Deaths and Marriages: <https://www.govt.nz/organisations/births-deaths-and-marriages/births-deaths-marriages-offices/>



Swiss representation

Swiss representations do not offer the following services (non-exhaustive list):

- + Drafting of wills
- + Recommending a care home
- + Providing health care and/or covering medical expenses



Other

Retirement benefits

If you are 65 or older and have been a **permanent resident of New Zealand** for 10 years, you can apply for a 'superannuation' (NZ Super) retirement pension. To qualify for NZ Super you must have been present in New Zealand for five of the ten years after your 50th birthday. Please note that eligibility period is changing from 10 to a 20-year residency-

NZ Super payments are reduced if beneficiaries also receive retirement benefits from another country (e.g. income earned from contributions into the Swiss OASI pension scheme). Payment of NZ Super is made directly to your bank account every two weeks. Under New Zealand law, you can still be gainfully employed after the age of 65. Everyone over 65 gets NZ Super, regardless of what they are earning from paid employment.

- + <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/new-zealand/en/home/services/social-insurance/swiss-old-age-pension-ahv-avs--nz-superannuation.html>