# Video transcript: 24 April 2024 Message from Paula

Kia ora koutou, I'm Paula Tesoriero the Chief Executive of Whaikaha, the Ministry of Disabled People.

My sign name is this, which represents two bicycle pedals moving in a forward direction.

I wanted to do this video to tell you about some extra information we are providing on the Purchasing Rules, while we wait for the documents to be provided to you in New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, large print, audio, and Braille.

There's much more information that you can find on our website.

Many of you will know about the changes that were made in March to our Purchasing Rules. The Purchasing Rules tell you what disability support you can buy with certain types of funding.

We know that the changes to the rules were confusing and we've had many questions about them.

So we have added more information about four different parts of the Purchasing Rules.

The extra information that we have added is about:

* using transport in your community,
* items you can buy with your funding,
* and some of the support arrangements you already have in place.

Firstly, on transport. If you are a disabled person and you need a ride to take you to an appointment or to go out in your community, you can use rideshare services to take you there.

Those services could be companies like Driving Miss Daisy or any rideshare service that can take you where you need to go.

It is important to ask that the transport is accessible and you are safe.

Secondly, some of the other information that we have provided in the rules means that individualised funding, respite, or carer support can be used to buy specific items that a disabled person might need.

So you can now buy the following items:

* an electronic tablet or noise cancelling headphones.
* Sensory toys like fidget spinners
* and weighted blankets.

Please talk with your Enabling Good Lives connector or individualised funding Host about how often you can purchase these items.

And finally, if before the 18th of March, you were using your flexible funding to work or had enrolled in study or booked therapy sessions over a period of time you can continue to do that as long as it was booked before March the 18th.

We hope that this additional information around the Purchasing Rules provides some more reassurance about what you can do with your funding.

If you have any questions or concerns about your own situation and how the Purchasing Rules apply to you, please speak to whomever your primary support person is.

This might be your individualised funding Host, your Needs Assessment Service Coordinator, or someone you trust.

And just a reminder, there is more information on our website which you can access via [www.whaikaha.govt.nz](http://www.whaikaha.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi nui, kia koutou katoa.