

Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Deceased Workers Guide



Information for employers

May 2025

ACC support for families if a Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) worker dies from injury

An RSE worker is covered by ACC as soon as they enter New Zealand. This is for injuries that happen inside or outside of work, and they don't need to have started working to be covered.

If an RSE worker dies from an ACC covered injury, ACC can provide a range of financial support to help their family. This support can help with things like funeral or memorial costs, one-off payments such as a survivor's grant, and loss of income if the deceased worker meets ACC's legislative requirements of being an Earner at the time of death.

For more information on the financial support that's available, visit the ACC website [here](#).

How to apply for financial help after a death

Families can apply for financial help whenever they feel comfortable. There's no time limit to complete the [ACC21 Notification of Accidental Death](#) form and anyone can fill this in e.g. a friend, family member or funeral director on behalf of the family.

One of the following people will need to sign the form:

- spouse or partner
- next of kin
- executor of the will.

To apply, the [ACC21](#) form needs to be completed with as much information as possible. This can then be dropped at a local ACC branch or sent by post or email to ACC. [Click here](#) to check out the ACC website for more information.

Help to pay for the funeral or memorial

The family of a deceased RSE worker can choose to have a funeral or memorial in New Zealand or overseas. ACC can pay for a funeral grant and the family won't have to pay tax on this. The amount changes every year, and ACC calculates the funeral grant amount based on the date the person passed away.

ACC can also pay the funeral director. If funeral expenses have already been paid by the family, or where an insurance company is covering funeral costs, ACC can reimburse the family. This can be done by overseas funds transfer.

Repatriation costs can also be covered by the funeral grant.

One-off payment for a spouse or partner, children, and other dependents

ACC can provide additional support for the family of a deceased RSE worker, such as a survivor's grant, which is provided as a one-off, non-taxable payment.

The survivor's grant can be paid by ACC as an overseas funds transfer. ACC requires specific bank account information to enable a payment. The requirement is a letter from their bank providing their full details along with their BSB / Swift Code.

What information does ACC need when considering financial help?

For a spouse/partner and any children (under the age of 18) ACC requires:

- Marriage certificate (for spouse and deceased)
- Birth certificate for children under the age of 18 (confirms deceased parent)
- Where appropriate, confirmation of who has care of the eligible children will be requested by ACC
- ACC will request additional information if a partner and the deceased were in a de facto relationship.

Payments for other dependents can also be considered. Additional information will be requested by ACC in order to determine eligibility.

Support for loss of income

ACC can provide a percentage of a deceased RSE workers income (weekly compensation) to eligible people for a set period of time.

A New Zealand bank account number and Inland Revenue (IRD) number are required for each person aged 16 years or over that is eligible to receive weekly compensation.

For those that don't have a New Zealand bank account, this can be set up with Westpac New Zealand Limited. The family will need to talk to Westpac's migrant banking team.

Westpac will need evidence of the purpose to set up a bank account(s) where people do not live or aren't moving to New Zealand.

A New Zealand bank account is required to apply for an IRD number.

For more information visit the Westpac website [here](#).

If an employer is unable to assist the family with the processes above, then ACC may reach out to the relevant embassy or consulate for guidance.

Where do I go for more information?

For more information including help with ACC services, language, or cultural support, visit the ACC website, email claims@acc.co.nz or phone 0800 101 996