

[2017] NZSSAA 070

Reference No. SSA 020/17

IN THE MATTER of the Social Security Act 1964

AND

IN THE MATTER of an appeal by **XXXX** of
Auckland against a decision of
a Benefits Review Committee

BEFORE THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL AUTHORITY

S Pezaro - Deputy Chair

K Williams - Member

Hearing at Auckland on 27 July 2017

Appearances

No appearance by or on behalf of the appellant

A Katona, agent for the Ministry of Social Development

DECISION

- [1] Mr XXXX appeals the decision on 28 September 2016 to decline to include the costs of gardening and lawnmowing in his disability allowance on the grounds that these costs are covered by Veterans Affairs New Zealand. This decision was upheld by the Benefits Review Committee on 2 February 2017.
- [2] Mr XXXX receives a Veterans Pension and lives in a Housing New Zealand property. In his notice of appeal he complains that neighbours have damaged his lawnmower. Mr XXXX also appears to object to the particular contractor who mows his lawns. He raises other matters in his notice of appeal but these do not appear to be related to any decision by the Ministry.
- [3] In the hearing Ms Katona said that the Ministry had found it difficult to ascertain what the issues are for Mr XXXX. She said he raised issues about his medical alarm service provider but this is also arranged through Veteran

Affairs. Ms Katona also said that Mr XXXX asked for benefits to be paid to different accounts but that that is not possible.

Decision

[4] As Mr XXXX's gardening costs are paid by Veteran Affairs we see no basis on which the cost of this work should be included in his disability allowance.

[5] For this reason the appeal is dismissed.

Dated at Wellington this 11th day of December 2017

S Pezaro
Deputy chair

K Williams
Member