



## Join in with Regelhulp.nl

**Join in. Stay self-sufficient for as long as possible despite illness, old age or handicap. That is the goal of the Social Support Act (Wmo). But: that can only happen if people know how to access the right help. All national facilities and allowances are set out on Regelhulp.nl, plus the Wmo facilities offered by more than a hundred municipal bodies. Plus a handy application form. Thanks to the NUP building blocks, BSN and DigiD. What do users think of Regelhulp? And is this national website a good supplement to the municipal Wmo counter?**

'Yes, certainly,' thinks Claudi van Dongen of the Etten-Leur municipality. 'We think Regelhulp links up fine with our own counter. With Regelhulp, all information will be available to everyone, which will increase people's ability to cope independently. Connecting to Regelhulp was incredibly simple, and you can completely adapt Regelhulp to fit in with your own municipal tasks. And you don't have to do anything about maintenance!'

### Further assistance

E.L.Z. That is what the actual Wmo counter of Etten-Leur and neighbouring council Zundert is called. Citizens can go there directly with questions about help on health, care and housing. Van Dongen: 'When the Wmo came along, we opted for a major directive role. We wanted a wide-ranging actual starting point for citizens. To help them further and just let go when care is running smoothly. To only refer means to lose people, because care is often requested by people who are already overburdened. Moreover, follow-up care is often necessary.'

ADHD, Dyslexia, Asperger's Syndrome and PDD-NOS (Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified). Countless (health) care schemes, tax rebates and tax credits exist for these disorders of development. *Vereniging Balans* – a national interest group for parents – provides information and helps parents with applications for grants and subsidies. Because that is still a minefield, says Joli Luijckx of *Vereniging Balans*: 'With dyslexia, for instance, you don't get some costs refunded, but they are still tax-deductible. And you must just happen to know that such things as a laptop-reimbursement exists, if your child cannot write well due to motor-skill problems. As well as all the rules and regulations, there are also numerous authorities, such as the council, Social Insurance Bank (SVB), Workers Insurance Authority (UWV)...that doesn't make it any easier.'

### Invisibility

What makes the search journey through benefits land extra complicated, is the relative 'invisibility' of these development disorders. Luijckx: 'The handicaps are difficult to define. With autism, for example. On the application form it states: can your child dress himself? Yes, the parents answer. But they forget everything they have to do in connection with that: strictly plan the getting dressed, get the child ready, continually urge the child on, lay out clothes in the correct order. All extra care. But for many parents, so normal that they call it 'getting dressed independently'. And so they miss out on the subsidy.'

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BOUW MEE AAN BETERE DIENSTVERLENING

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## **Explain**

Regelhulp has enormous advantages, Luijckx thinks. 'It is well organized, and there are various ways in which you can search. For instance, by clicking on your own situation, you immediately see the relevant information, regulations and authorities. You can apply online for many, and sometimes you are referred to the appropriate authority. We did find the information on some of the regulations not always suited to our target group, simply because of the 'invisibility'. I am now working to improve this. We are going to describe more accurately precisely for whom a regulation is intended, and give practical tips on filling in application forms. Because parents only get the help they need if the application is successful. That saves them a lot of worry, and ultimately the authorities a lot of money and extra work.'

