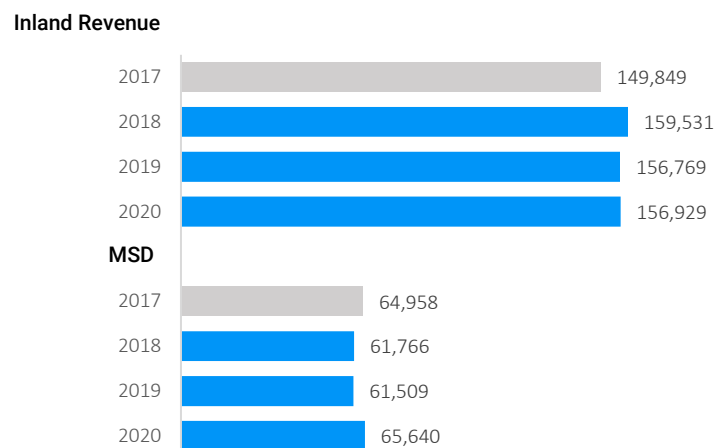


## The packages boosted incomes of low- and middle-income families...

- Trends to date show **more families received a weekly or fortnightly Family Tax Credit payment** from Inland Revenue and MSD (Figure 1).
- There was an **increase in the average amount** a recipient received from Inland Revenue (\$117 per week at the end of June 2017 to \$157 at the end of June 2020) and from MSD (\$147 to \$187).
- The **2020 increase in main benefit rates** led to up to 318,000 recipients (with and without children) immediately benefitting by up to \$25 a week depending on their circumstances.
- 7,269 sole parents receiving benefit had Section 192 **deductions stopped in April 2020**

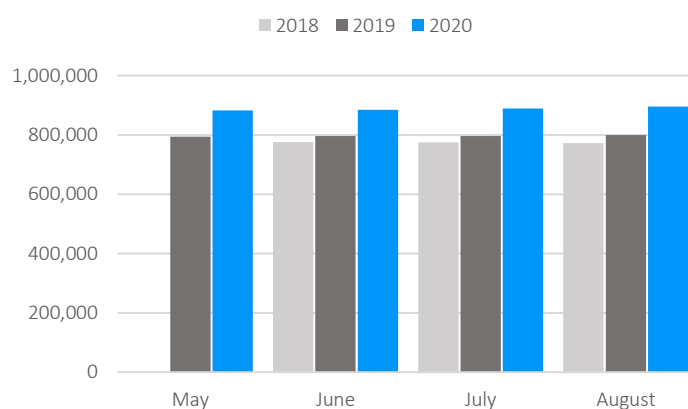
**Figure 1: Number of Family Tax Credit recipients during the last payment period of June, last four years**



## The doubled Winter Energy Payment for 2020 helped many recipients this winter...

- During the first year of the payment (2018), 774,000 recipients (on average) received the Winter Energy Payment. **This has increased this year to 888,000 recipients (on average)** (Figure 2).
- Once we include the eligible partners of recipients, there were **just under 1.2 million** adults being helped by the Winter Energy Payment at any given point in the 2020 Winter Energy Payment period.
- monthly expenditure in 2020 increased** by around \$100 - \$110 million, mostly due to the doubling of the payment

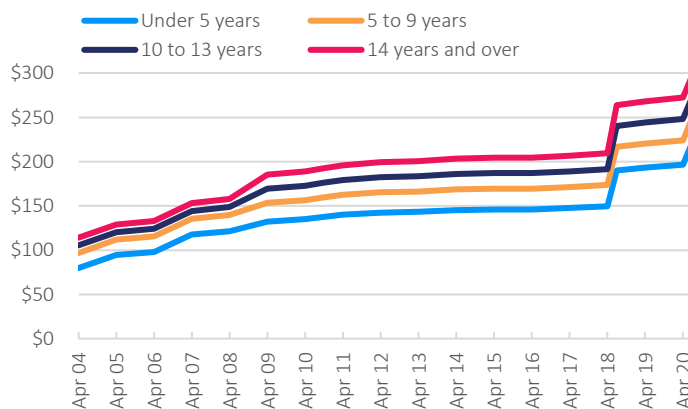
**Figure 2: Number of Winter Energy Payment recipients, by month**



## There has been an increase in the amount that the carers of children and young people are receiving...

- More carers are receiving either an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit**, as part of a trend in receipt that predates the Families Package.
- These carers are receiving more per week** thanks to the increase in payment rates as part of the Families Package, and the COVID-19 response, as well as the introduction of the Clothing Allowance (Figure 3).
- This saw monthly expenditure on Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit increase from \$13.7 million in June 2018 to \$17.1 million in July 2018 and from \$20.6 million in June 2020 to \$23.4 million in July 2020

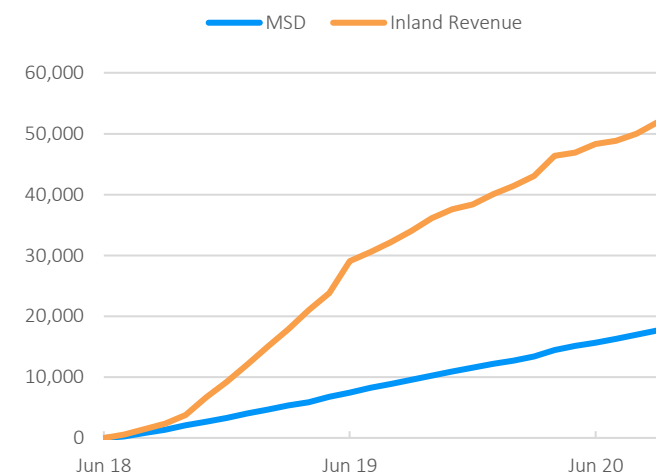
**Figure 3: Weekly payment rates for carers, by age of child**



## Receipt of the Best Start tax credit continues to grow...

- During the last payment period of September 2020, **51,800 families** were receiving a Best Start payment from Inland Revenue, while **17,700 people** were receiving a payment from MSD (Figure 4).
- Growth in numbers receiving Best Start from Inland Revenue slowed after June 2019. This was in part due to children in the first cohort of families to receive the payment reaching age one – at that age Best Start becomes income tested.
- The number of families receiving Best Start at any point in time will continue to increase for the first half of 2021, before starting to stabilise in the second half of 2021 as the first cohort of children start to turn three – at that age the payment stops.

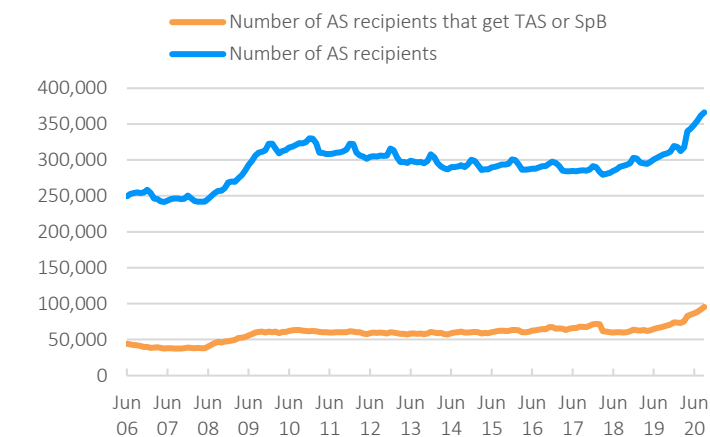
**Figure 4: Number of Best Start recipients since implementation**



## The increased payment rates for Accommodation Supplement and Accommodation Benefit have resulted in people getting larger payments per week from MSD...

- The number of Accommodation Supplement recipients **has increased**, particularly so since March 2020 (see blue line on Figure 5).
- Due to the Families Package increase in payment rates, there was an accompanying **fall in the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients who also received Temporary Additional Support or Special Benefit** (see orange line on Figure 5). The number has since increased, particularly so during 2020, likely due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The amount the average Accommodation Supplement recipient receives weekly has **increased from \$71 at the end of June 2017, to \$99 at the end of June 2020**.
- The proportion of people receiving the **maximum amount of Accommodation Supplement fell** at the implementation of the Families Package changes (Figure 6). Since then this proportion has grown slightly.
- There was a **fall in numbers of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit** from 37,100 in the year to 30 June 2017, to 33,700 in the year to 30 June 2020.
- The increase of the maximum rate of Accommodation Benefit from \$40 to \$60 **increased overall expenditure** on the payment.

**Figure 5: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, and number of Accommodation Supplement recipients that also receive Temporary Additional Support/Special Benefit**



**Figure 6: Proportion of people receiving the maximum Accommodation Supplement**

