



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Monitoring the Families Package and changes to income support from 2018 to 2021

Supplementary information on selected payments

January 2022

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Disclaimer

The views and interpretations in this report are those of the Research and Evaluation team and are not the official position of the Ministry of Social Development. The views and interpretations in this report are based on the data provided to us (at a specific point of time) from MSD, Oranga Tamariki, and Inland Revenue, and therefore may be subject to change due to revisions or new data becoming available.

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Introduction

This report is a supplement to the main report *Monitoring the Families Package and Changes to Income Support from 2018 to 2021 – trends in receipt of payments* and contains additional information for selected payments. For further detail on the payments, what changes have occurred, and overall trends in receipt and expenditure please see the 2021 main report.

Payments included in this report are:

- Minimum Family Tax Credit (not included in the main report)
- Parental Tax Credit (not included in the main report)
- Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit
- Foster Care Allowance
- Winter Energy Payment
- Accommodation Supplement
- Accommodation Benefit.

Abbreviations used in this report

Table 1: Abbreviations used in graphs in this report

Abbreviation	Full meaning
FP	Families Package
C19	Covid-19
C19R	Covid-19 response
ISP	Income support package(s)
B21	Budget 2021 income support changes

Benefit groupings used in this report

In this report, benefits are grouped based on their primary function or cohort. This is to allow for consistent comparisons between benefit groups over time. Table 2 shows the groupings and the benefits they relate to both before, and after the Welfare Reform, which occurred in July 2013. For Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit benefits related to youth and students are grouped together with non-health condition related main benefits.

Table 2: Benefit groupings used in this report before and after the 2013 Welfare Reform.¹

Benefit grouping	Pre-Welfare Reform	Post Welfare Reform
Non-health condition or youth related main benefits	Unemployment Benefit, Emergency Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit: Emergency Maintenance Allowance/Sole Parent/Woman Alone, Widow's Benefit	Jobseeker Support (Work Ready), Emergency Benefit, Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Sole Parent Support
Health condition related main benefits	Invalid's Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick and Infirm, Sickness Benefit	Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability)
Superannuitants	New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension	New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension
Youth and students	Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment, Unemployment Hardship Students, Independent Youth Benefit	Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship
Not on a main benefit	Non-beneficiary	Non-beneficiary

¹ Different groupings are used for Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit, benefits related to youth and students are grouped together with non-health condition related main benefits. This is done to protect the confidentiality of recipients of benefits targeted at youth or students.

Minimum Family Tax Credit

Overall receipt²

The Minimum Family Tax Credit (MFTC) is a payment from Inland Revenue (IR) available to parents who are not on a benefit but are on a low income, provided they work a minimum number of hours each week. Single parents must work at least 20 hours a week, while couples with children must work at least 30 hours a week combined. MFTC tops up a family's income, ensuring they receive a minimum of \$598.00 gross per week as at 1 July 2021.

From 1 April 2018, the MFTC threshold amount increased from \$23,816 to \$26,156, alongside the introduction of the Winter Energy Payment. It was further increased in line with the 2020 and 2021 main benefit increases, to ensure people were better off working and receiving MFTC than receiving a main benefit. As of 1 July 2021, the Minimum Family Tax Credit income threshold amount was \$31,096.

Figure 1 shows that the number of MFTC recipients paid weekly or fortnightly during the final fortnight of June has fluctuated since the introduction of the Families Package.

Figure 1: Number of Minimum Family Tax Credit recipients paid weekly or fortnightly by IR, end of the last five June months.



Over the tax year ended 31 March 2020, around 3,900 families received MFTC, either weekly, fortnightly or as a lump sum payment at the end of the year. Just over 88 percent of these families were sole parents.

² Some figures from Inland Revenue in this section have been revised from last year's report. These revisions are minor, and due to data timing. They do not affect the conclusions we come to about these data series.

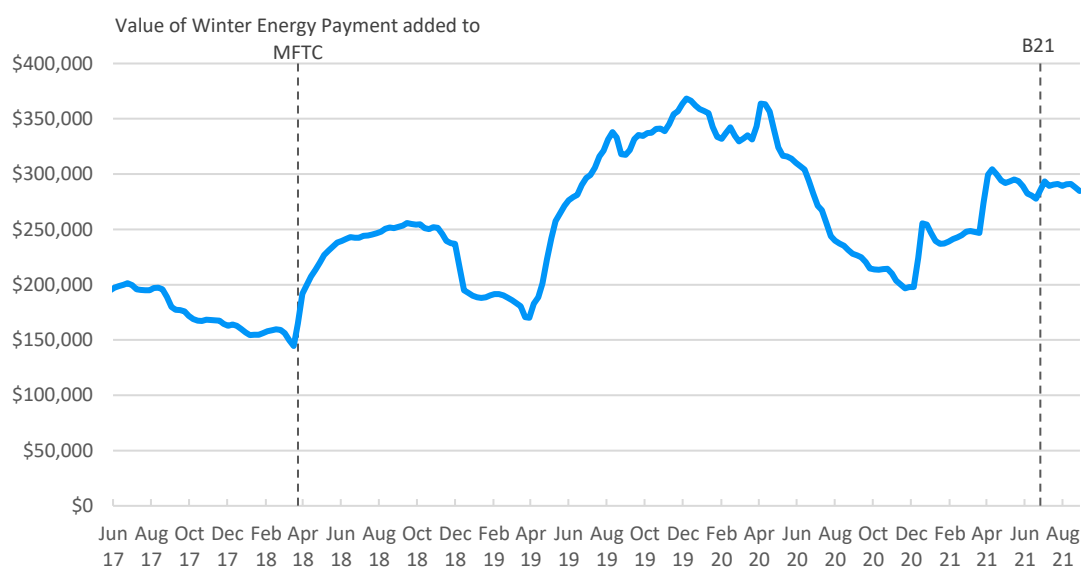
Overall expenditure

Expenditure on MFTC has fluctuated since 2017. Expenditure increased between June 2017 and June 2018, largely due to the increase in the MFTC threshold in April 2018. There was a further increase from June 2018 to June 2019, corresponding to an increase in recipients. The slight increase in the weekly average between June 2019 to June 2020 was due to the higher rate of MFTC from 1 April 2020 offsetting the fall in recipient numbers. Finally, the decrease in July 2021 is due to the increase in MFTC rate and threshold (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Figure 2: Average weekly expenditure on Minimum Family Tax Credits in the last fortnight of June, last five years.



Figure 3: Weekly expenditure on Minimum Family Tax Credits, averaged across fortnights, from June 2017.



The average amount of MFTC a family received per week increased from \$89 at the end of June 2017 to \$129 per week as at the end of June 2021. This may reflect more families needing larger top ups to reach the minimum, perhaps where hours of work or wages were reduced due to COVID-19, as well as inflation adjustments.

Across the tax year ended 31 March 2020, around \$14 million was spent on Minimum Family Tax Credits by IR, an increase from around \$13.3 million across the tax year ended 31 March 2019.

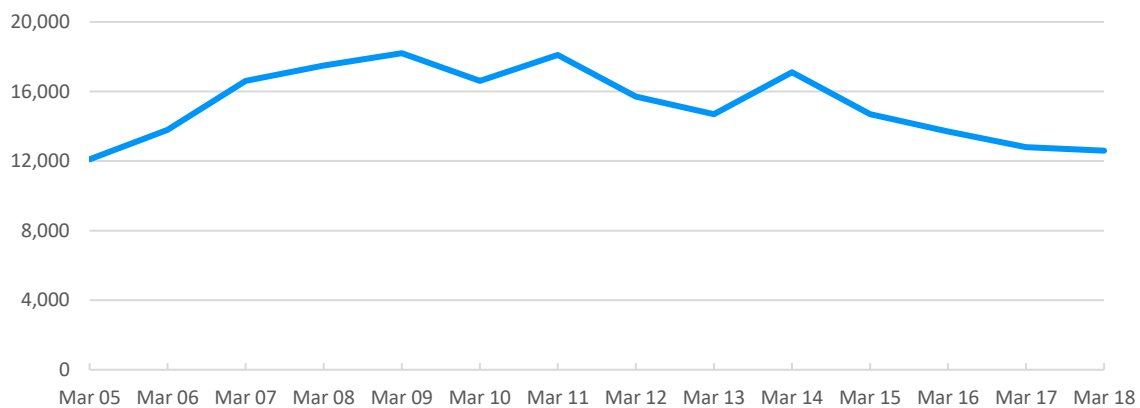
Parental Tax Credit

Overall receipt

Parental Tax Credit was replaced by the Best Start tax credit on 1 July 2018. For historical context, information on the discontinued parental tax credit is provided here. The parental tax credit had different criteria to Best Start and was paid by IR only.

During the later years of the Working for Families Package implementation (2007 to 2009), the parental tax credit had a large increase in receipt, peaking in the year ended March 2009, before receipt gradually declined after that (Figure 4).

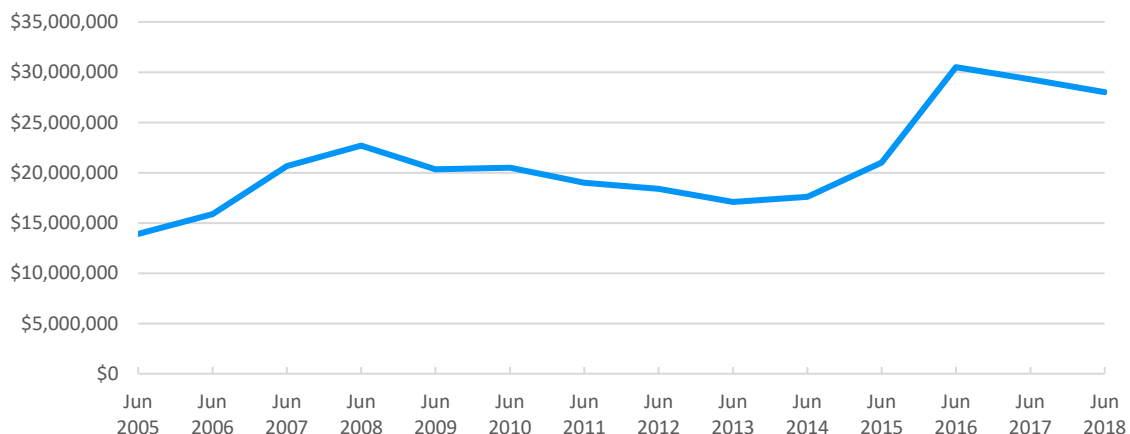
Figure 4: Receipt of the Parental Tax Credit, year ended March 2005 to 2018.³



Overall expenditure

Yearly expenditure on Parental Tax Credits rose in 2015 reflecting a policy change made at that time (Figure 5). For babies born on or after 1 April 2015, Parental Tax Credit increased from \$150 a week to \$220 a week, and the payment period increased from eight weeks to ten weeks.

Figure 5: Expenditure on the Parental Tax Credit, year ended June from 2005 to 2018.⁴



³ Total numbers of recipients with an end of year entitlement to the parental tax credit (rounded to the nearest 100).

⁴ Figures reported are based on fiscal year accrual basis as opposed to cash/return basis, which results in different figures compared to March year data published on the Inland Revenue website.

Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for the Orphan's Benefit and the Unsupported Child's Benefit by the:

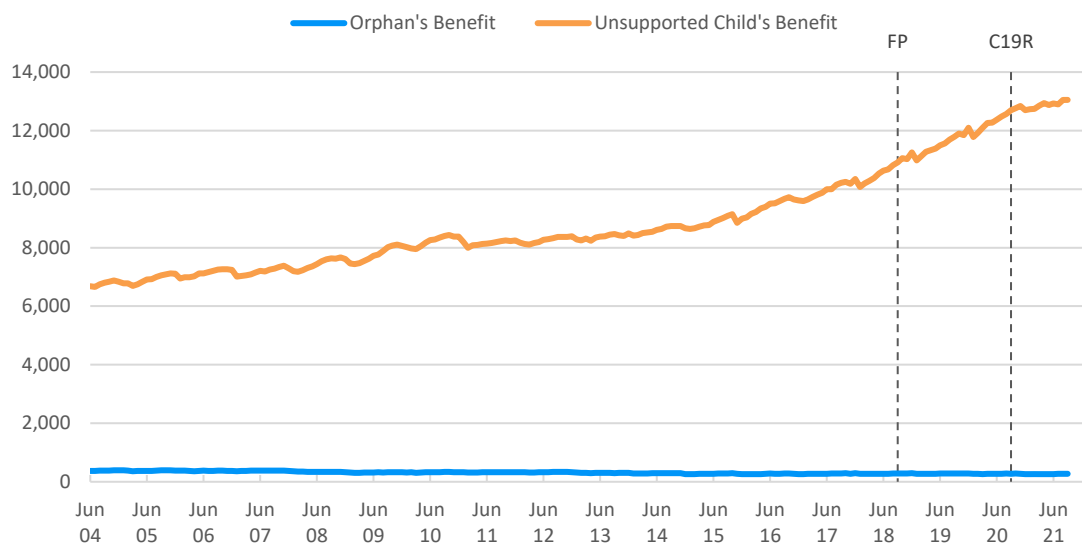
- main benefit received by the carer
- receipt of a health condition, disability or caring related payment by the carer
- family type of the carer
- age group of the carer
- ethnicity of the carer
- gender of the carer
- region that the carer lives in.

For ease of interpretation, overall trends in receipt are included below.

Overall receipt

The number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit has been stable, if not gradually decreasing over time since 2004. In contrast, the number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit has been increasing, particularly so since 2016. There is no obvious impact of the introduction of the Families Package or the COVID-19 response on the number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since June 2004.



Receipt by main benefit received

Benefit groupings used in this section differ compared to other sections in this report. This is because the number of youth and students receiving either an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit is very low, and so these recipients have been merged into the non-health condition related main benefits group in order to protect their confidentiality.

As shown in Table 4, as at the end of June 2021 around half of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit were not receiving a main benefit.

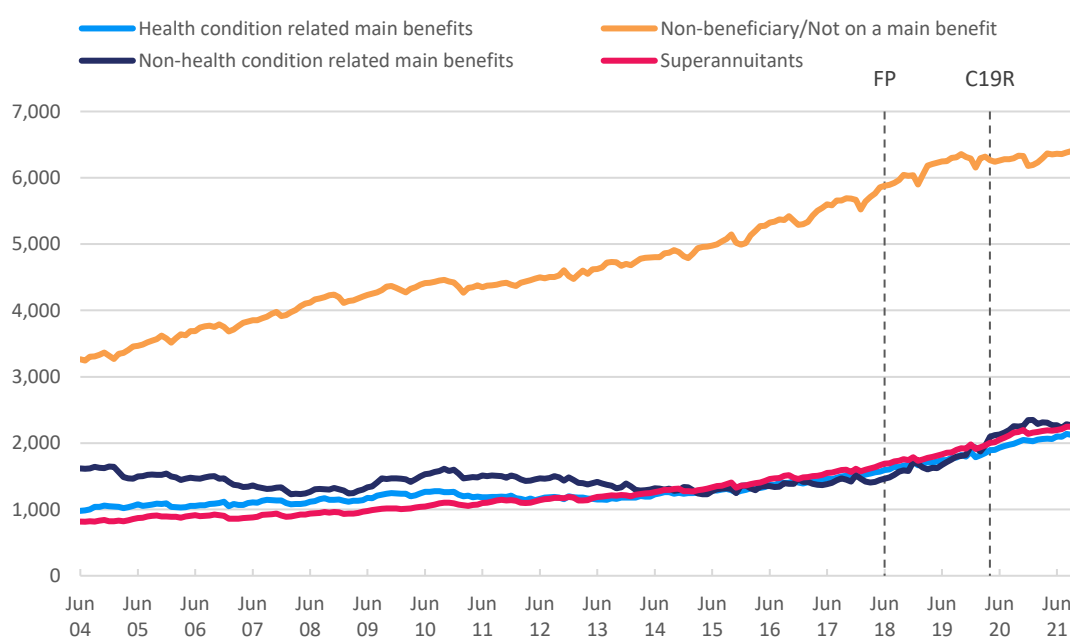
Table 4: Number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by benefit grouping.

Benefit grouping	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Not on a main benefit	123 (46.6%)	6,363 (49.2%)
Non-health condition related main benefits	48 (18.2%)	2,268 (17.5%)
Superannuitants	54 (20.5%)	2,196 (17.0%)
Health condition related main benefits	39 (14.8%)	2,100 (16.2%)
Total	264 (100.0%)	12,927 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Since 2004, carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit who were not receiving a main benefit have accounted for most of the growth in receipt (Figure 7). Since 2018, the number of carers who are Superannuitants or main benefit recipients has also increased.

Figure 7: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since June 2004, by benefit grouping.



Receipt by payments for health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities^{5,6}

As at the end of June 2021, most Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients do not receive a payment from MSD relating to having, or caring for someone with, health conditions or disabilities (Table 5).

Carers who have a health condition, disability, or care for someone but not receive assistance from MSD in relation to this are counted in the 'does not receive a health condition, disability or caring related payment' category. Therefore, figures presented in this section are an undercount of this population.

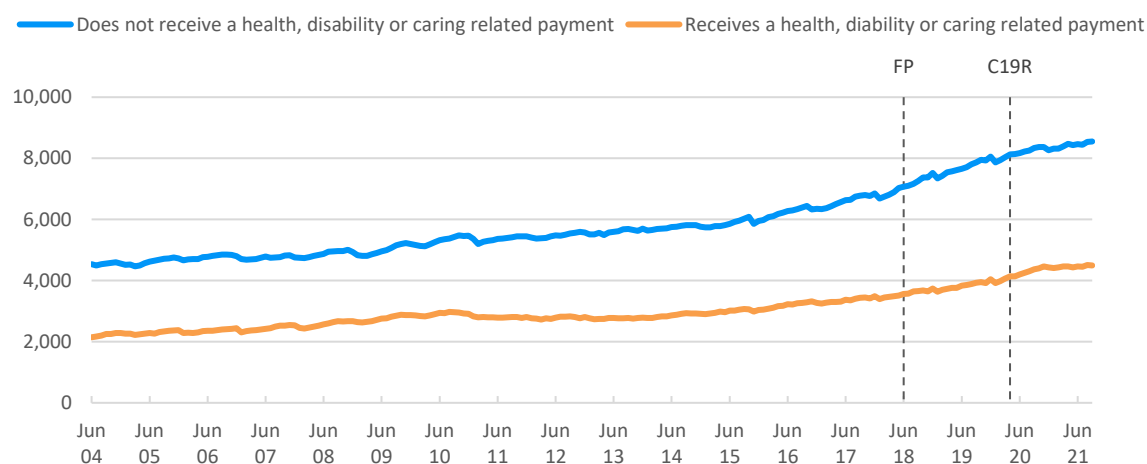
Table 5: Number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.

Benefit grouping	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Receives a health, disability or caring related payment	84 (31.8%)	4,467 (34.6%)
Does not receive a health, disability or caring related payment	183 (69.3%)	8,460 (65.4%)
Total	264 (100.0%)	12,927 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Since 2018, most of the growth in the number of Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients has come from carers that do not receive a health, disability or caring related payment from MSD (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since June 2004, by health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.



⁵ In this section payments are grouped based on if the recipient receives another payment from MSD relating to health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities for someone with a health condition or disability (i.e. by whether or not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance or a Child Disability Allowance).

⁶ Due to a revision in the code that is used to generate this specific dataset, the number of Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients that receive a health, disability or caring related payment for previous years has been revised. These figures as at the end of June 2020 have been revised from 74 receiving a health, disability or caring related payment and 194 not receiving such a payment, to 76 and 192 respectively for Orphan's Benefit, and 3,958 and 8,416 to 4,202 and 8,172 respectively for the Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Receipt by family type⁷

As at the end of June 2021, almost half of carers who receive an Orphan's Benefit and just under 40 percent of carers who receive an Unsupported Child's Benefit are not partnered (single), with one dependent child (Table 6).

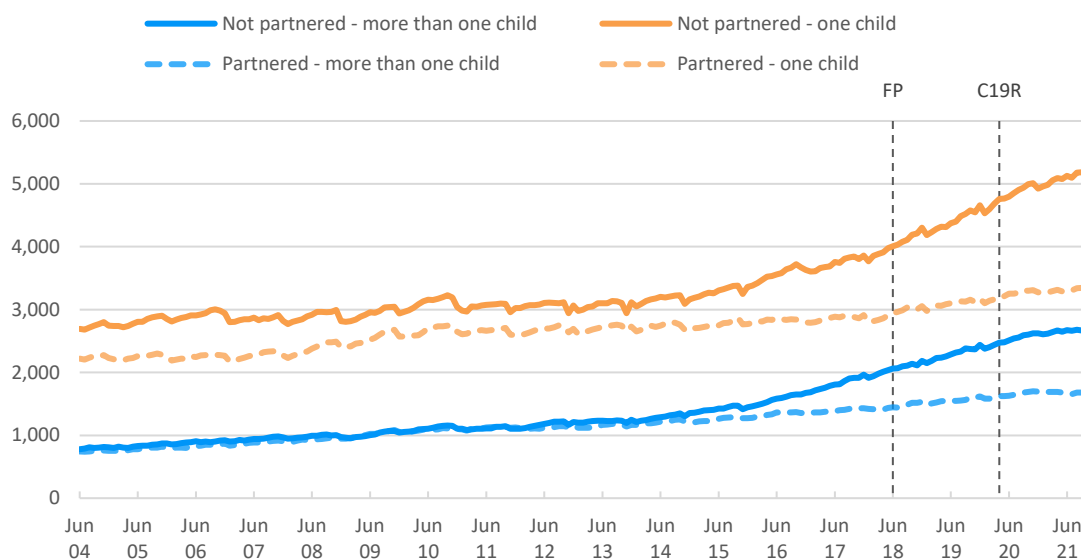
Table 6: Number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by family type.

Family type	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Not partnered – one child	126 (47.7%)	5,127 (39.7%)
Not partnered – more than one child	42 (15.9%)	2,673 (20.7%)
Partnered – one child	75 (28.4%)	3,285 (25.4%)
Partnered – more than one child	21 (8.0%)	1,671 (12.9%)
Unknown family type	3 (1.1%)	171 (1.3%)
Total	264 (100.0%)	12,927 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Over time, carers that are not partnered with one dependent child have been the largest group of Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients and have driven growth in receipt. Since 2016 there has also been noticeable growth in the number of carers that are classified as not partnered with more than one dependent child (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since 2004, by family type.



⁷ The family types and calculations used in this section slightly differ from in other sections. For recipients of the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit the benefit rate is not impacted by their relationship status. This is therefore not information they are required to provide if they do not receive other assistance from MSD. This can lead to situations where the family type of the recipient is not recorded, or where information is out of date. Therefore, the figures in this section should be treated as approximations.

Receipt by age of recipient

Most carers who receive an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit are aged 40 years and over (Table 7).

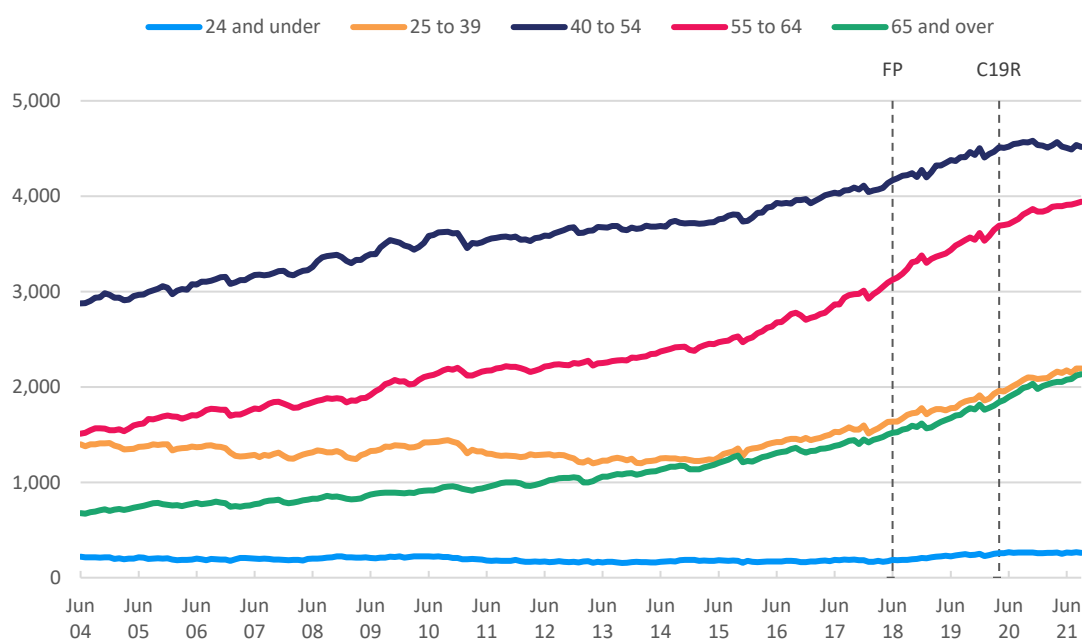
Table 7: Number of carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by age group.

Age group	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
24 years old and under	9 (3.4%)	261 (2.0%)
25 to 39 years old	66 (25.0%)	2,172 (16.8%)
40 to 54 years old	78 (29.5%)	4,506 (34.9%)
55 to 64 years old	60 (22.7%)	3,909 (30.2%)
65 years and older	51 (19.3%)	2,076 (16.1%)
Total	264 (100.0%)	12,927 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Figure 10 shows that from 2016 onwards, the increase in Unsupported Child's Benefit recipient numbers has been steepest for recipients aged 55 to 64.

Figure 10: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since 2004, by age group.



Receipt by total response ethnic group⁸

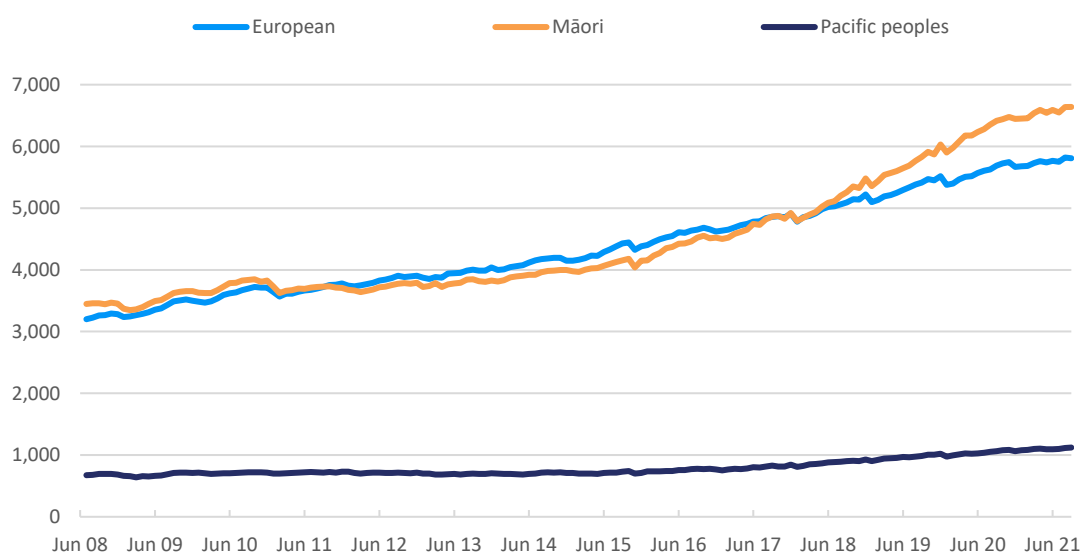
As at the end of June 2021, carers who identify as Māori made up around half of the carers who received Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit (Table 8).

Table 8: Number of carers who receive an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by total response ethnic group.

Ethnicity group	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Māori	117 (46.4%)	6,591 (53.7%)
European	99 (39.3%)	5,766 (46.9%)
Pacific peoples	39 (15.5%)	1,092 (8.9%)
Asian	9 (3.6%)	129 (1.1%)
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	3 (1.2%)	39 (0.3%)
Other ethnicities	6 (2.4%)	189 (1.5%)
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	252 (100%)	12,285 (100%)
Not specified	12	642
Total recipients	264	12,927

Over time, people who identify as European or Māori have made up the largest group of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit. Growth in recipient numbers since 2016 has been predominately driven by Māori (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since June 2004, by selected total response ethnic group.



⁸ Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Receipt by gender

As at the end of June 2021, most carers who receive either an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit were women (Table 9).

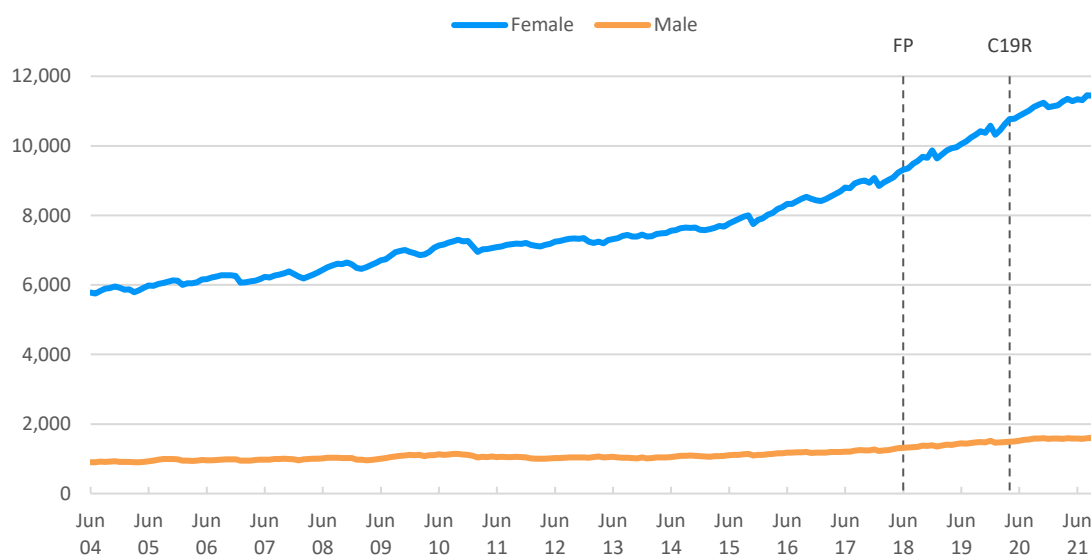
Table 9: Number of carers who receive an Orphan's Benefit or an Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2021, by gender.

Gender	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Female	216 (81.9%)	11,337 (87.7%)
Male	48 (18.2%)	1,587 (12.3%)
Gender diverse	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	264 (100.0%)	12,927 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Over time, the increase in Unsupported Child's Benefit receipt has been most rapid for women, and this trend has not been impacted by the Families Package or the COVID-19 response (Figure 12).

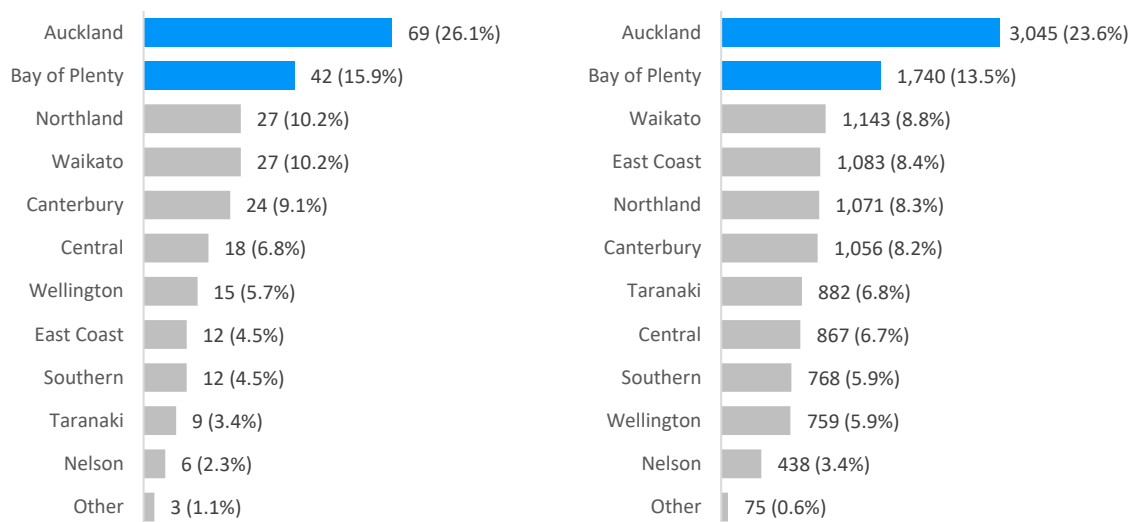
Figure 12: Number of carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since 2004, by gender.



Receipt by MSD region⁹

As illustrated by Figure 13, the Auckland region has the highest number of Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients, followed by the Bay of Plenty.

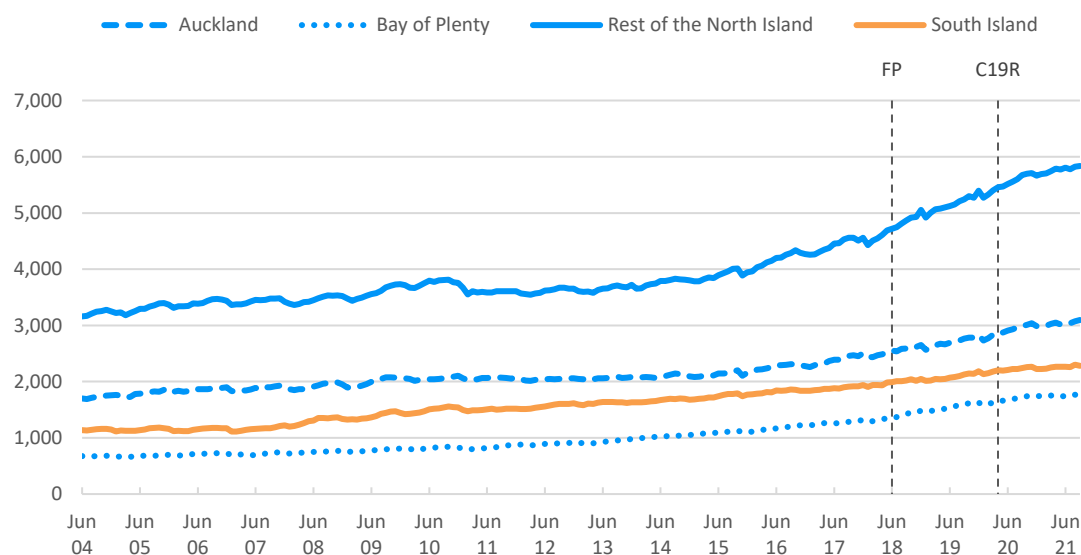
Figure 13: Carers receiving an Orphan's Benefit (left) or an Unsupported Child's Benefit (right) by region, as at the end of June 2021



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Figure 14 shows that while there has been growth in Unsupported Child's Benefit receipt since 2016 across the country, it has been driven by increases in areas of the North Island outside of Auckland and the Bay of Plenty.

Figure 14: Carers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit by grouped region, since June 2004.¹⁰



⁹ This region is based on the MSD administrative region at which the carers home MSD office is assigned to.

¹⁰ The 'Rest of the North Island' grouping includes the Northland, Waikato, Taranaki, East Coast, Central and Wellington MSD regions, while the 'South Island' grouping includes the Nelson, Canterbury and Southern MSD regions. This has been done for presentation purposes.

Foster Care Allowance

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of the number of children and young people that a carer received the Foster Care Allowance on behalf of by the following:

- placement type
- gender
- ethnicity.

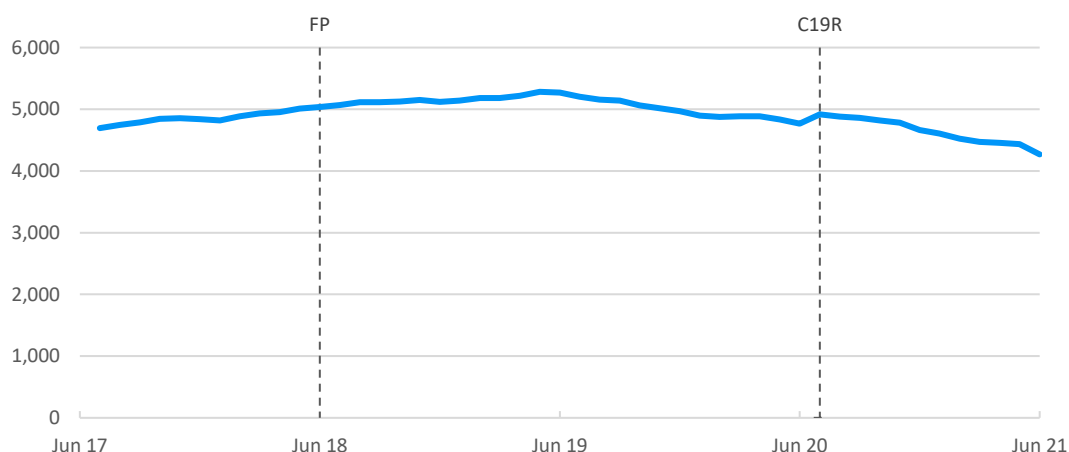
Note that these splits are available for those either in a family/whānau placement, or a non-family/whānau placement only. Data for those in residential placements, Child and Family Support services, family home placements, and other placement types is not available.

For ease of interpretation, overall trends in receipt are included below.

Overall receipt

Figure 15 shows that the number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of was gradually increasing until the end of May 2019. Since then, the number has gradually fallen to levels below those in late 2017.

Figure 15: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, monthly since July 2017.



Receipt by placement type

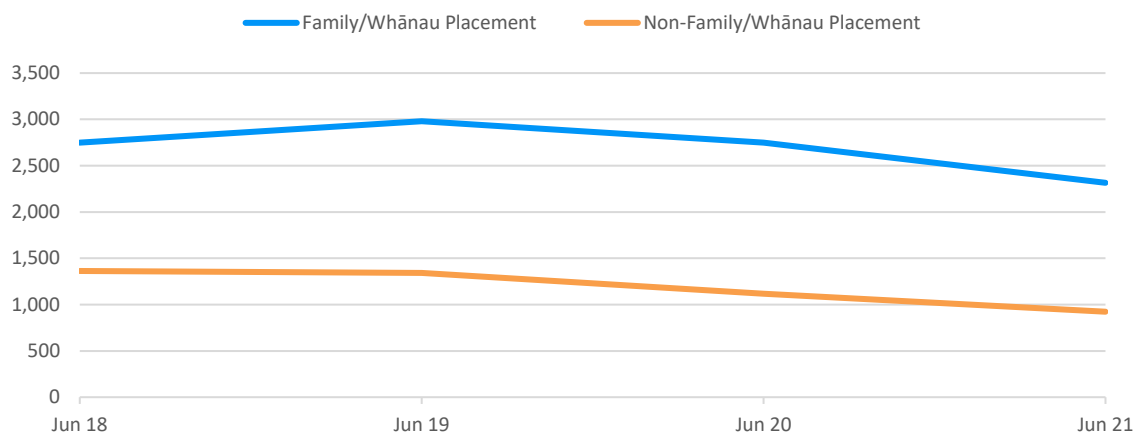
Figure 16 shows the number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by their placement type as at the end of June 2021.

Figure 16: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by placement type, as at the end of June 2021.



Figure 17 shows that the number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on their behalf increased for those in family/whanau placements between the end of June 2018 and June 2019, before declining since then.

Figure 17: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by placement type, as at the end of June, last four years.



Receipt by gender^{11,12}

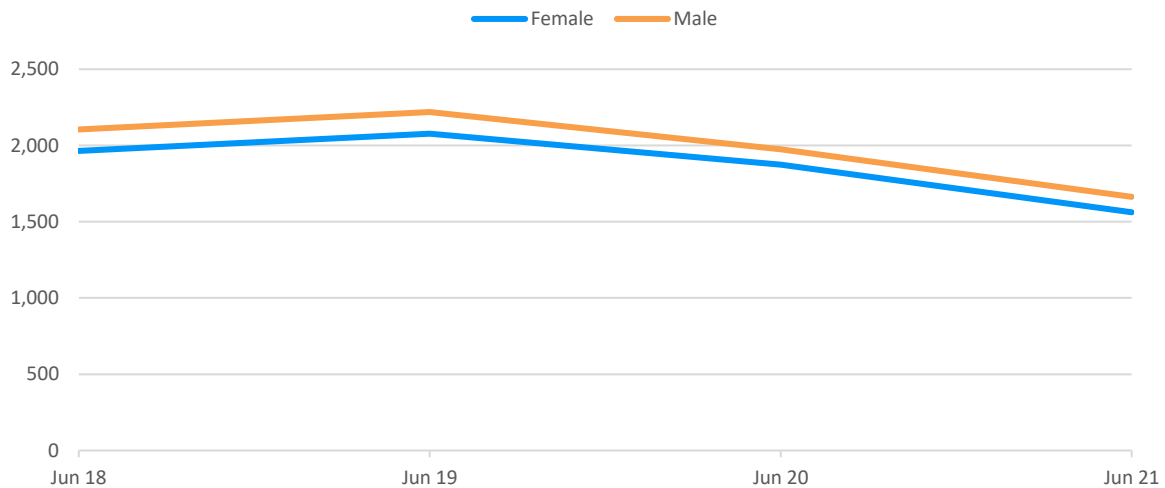
Figure 18 shows the number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by their gender, as at the end of June 2021.

Figure 18: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by gender, as at the end of June 2021.



Figure 19 shows that there are slightly more male than female children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance for, across the last four years.

Figure 19: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by gender, as at the end of June, last four years.



¹¹ Only children and young people that are in family/whānau or non-Family/whānau placements are included here.

¹² Numbers for children and young people that are either gender diverse, or have an unknown gender are suppressed due to small numbers in this section. This is in order to protect their personal information.

Receipt by prioritised ethnic group^{13,14}

Figure 20 shows that over half of the children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of were Māori, as at the end of June 2021.

Figure 20: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by prioritised ethnicity, as at the end of June 2021.

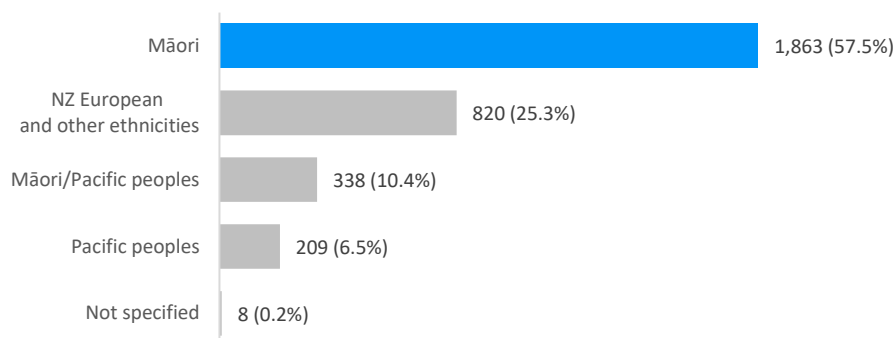
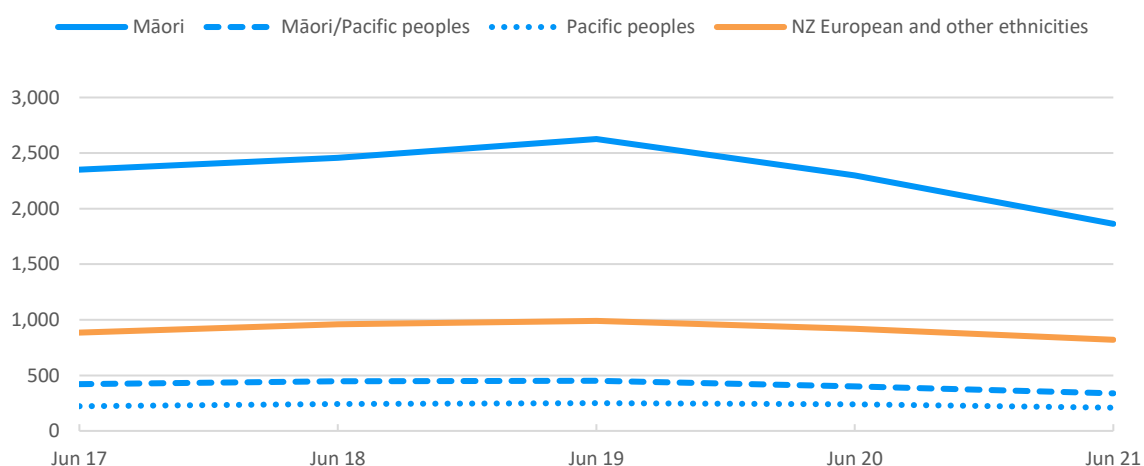


Figure 21 shows that most of the fall in the number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care on behalf of since June 2019 was for Māori.

Figure 21: Number of children and young people that a carer received a Foster Care Allowance on behalf of, by ethnicity, as at the end of June, last five years.



¹³ Only children and young people that are in family/whānau or non-Family/whānau placements are included here.

¹⁴ Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. This is to ensure that smaller ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings. The hierarchy used here is: Māori/Pacific peoples, Māori, Pacific peoples, NZ European + other ethnicities.

Winter Energy Payment

Supplementary breakdowns of receipt for the Winter Energy Payment are provided by the following:

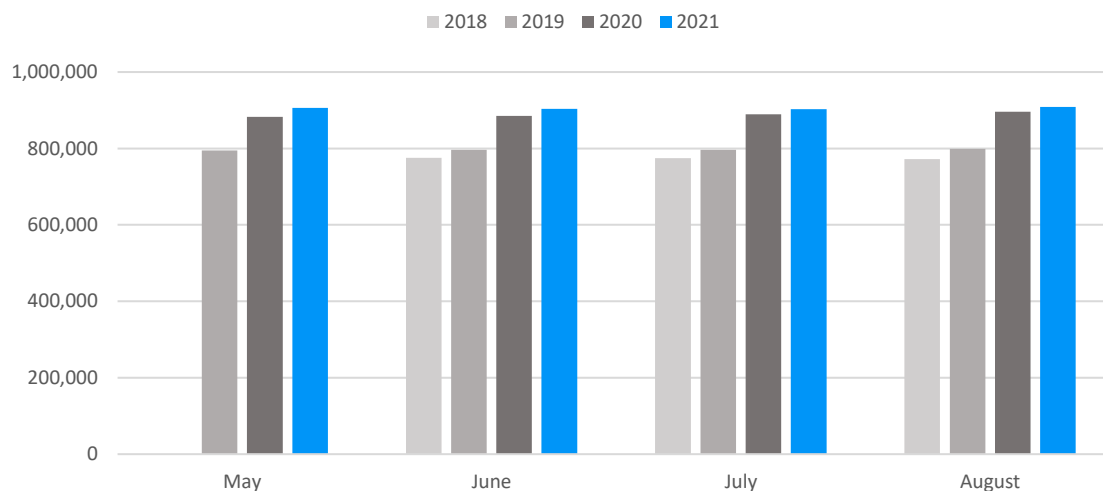
- benefit type
- receipt of a health condition, disability or caring related payment
- family type
- age group
- ethnicity
- gender
- region.

For ease of interpretation, overall trends in receipt are included below.

Overall receipt

Nearly everyone on a main benefit or receiving a superannuation payment that meets the criteria for the Winter Energy Payment receives it, with approximately 774,000 recipients during the 2018 year, approximately 797,000 recipients during the 2019 year, approximately 888,000 recipients during the 2020 year, and approximately 905,000 during the 2021 year.¹⁵

Figure 22: Number of Winter Energy Payment recipients, 2018 to 2021.



Including the partners of recipients, the Winter Energy Payment helped just over 1.2 million people as at the end of June 2021.¹⁶

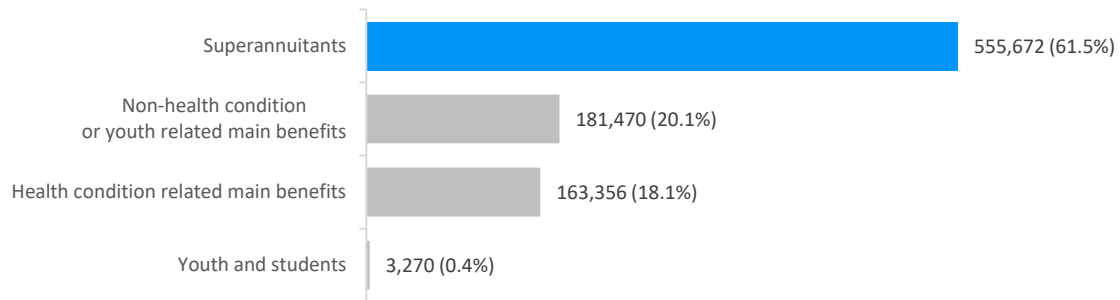
¹⁵ This figure counts primary benefit recipients and does not count partners included in a benefit (consistent with MSD's standard reporting).

¹⁶ This calculation is based on the partnership status of recipients and rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Receipt by benefit grouping¹⁷

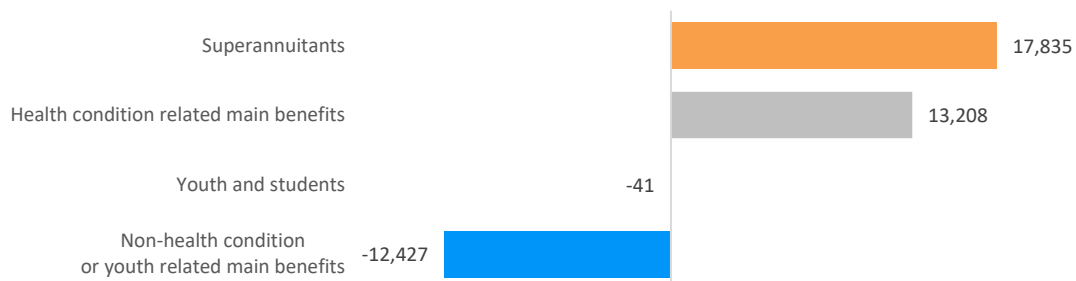
As shown in Figure 23, at the end of June 2021 most Winter Energy Payment recipients were Superannuitants. This is expected given that more people receive superannuation payments than any other payment administered by MSD.

Figure 23: Number of Winter Energy Payment recipients as at the end of June 2021, by benefit group.



Between June 2020 and June 2021, the increase in Winter Energy Payment recipients was driven by an increase in recipients who were Superannuitants or receiving health condition related main benefits receiving the payment. In contrast, the number of recipients receiving non-health condition or youth related main benefits decreased (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Change in number of Winter Energy Payment recipients between June 2020 and 2021, by benefit type.



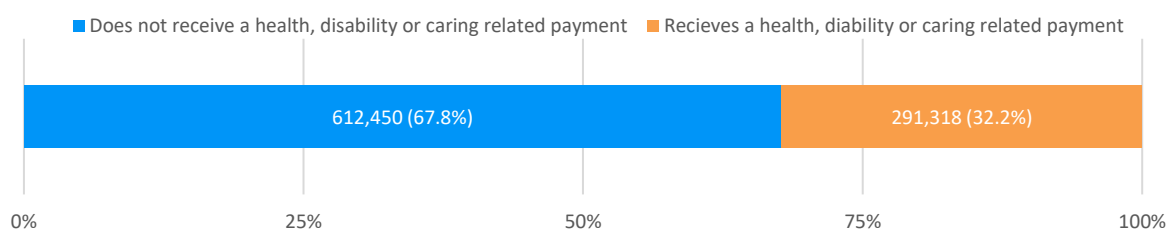
¹⁷ This section has been realigned to match other benefit groupings used throughout this report this year.

Receipt by payments for health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities^{18,19}

As at the end of June 2021, most Winter Energy Payment recipients do not receive a payment related to having a health condition, disability, or caring for someone (Figure 25).

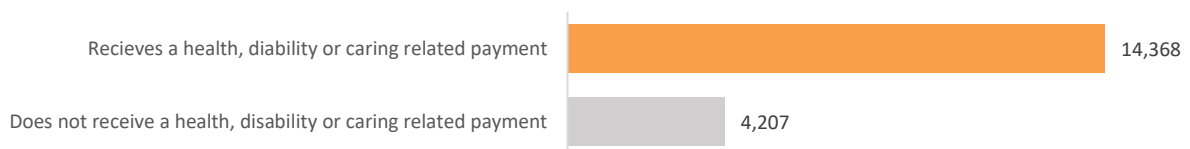
Recipients who have a health condition, disability, or care for someone but not receive assistance from MSD in relation to this are counted in the 'does not receive a health condition, disability or caring related payment' category. Therefore, figures presented in this section are an undercount of this population.

Figure 25: Winter Energy Payment receipt as at the end of June 2021, by receipt of payments that indicate health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.



Most of the increase in Winter Energy Payment receipt since June 2020 has come from benefit or superannuation recipients who do receive a payment related to having a health condition, disability, or caring for someone (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and 2021, by receipt of payments that indicate health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.



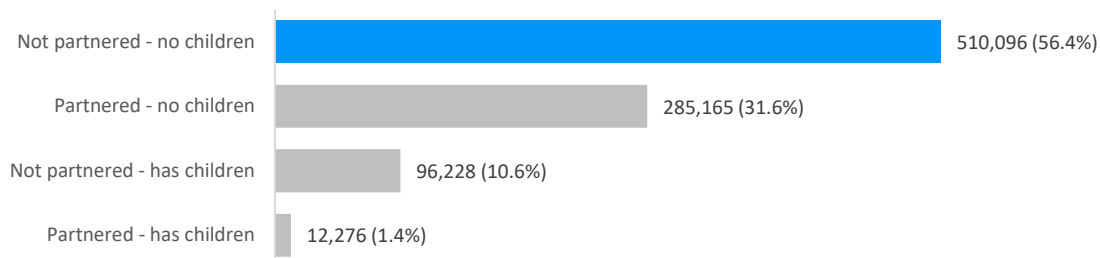
¹⁸ In this section payments are grouped based on if the recipient receives another payment from MSD relating to health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities for someone with a health condition or disability (i.e. by whether or not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance or a Child Disability Allowance).

¹⁹ Due to a revision in the code that is used to generate this specific dataset, the number of Winter Energy Payment recipients that receive a health, disability or caring related payment for previous years has been revised slightly upwards. These revisions do not impact on any conclusions we may have drawn in past years.

Receipt by family type

Most Winter Energy Payment recipients are not partnered and do not have dependent children (Figure 27).

Figure 27: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2021, by family type.



Some recipients might be paid at a rate different to what their family circumstances would suggest (for example, if a partner lives in a rest home, the primary recipient will get paid at the single rate). However, these circumstances are relatively rare.

Figure 28 shows that most of the change in receipt between June 2020 and June 2021 was largely due to an increase in the number of recipients who did not have dependent children.

Figure 28: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and June 2021, by family type.



Receipt by age group

Most Winter Energy Payment recipients are aged 65 years and over, as a large proportion of recipients are Superannuitants. Recipients aged under 65 are most likely to be aged between 25 to 39 years old, followed by 40 to 54 years old (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2021, by age group.

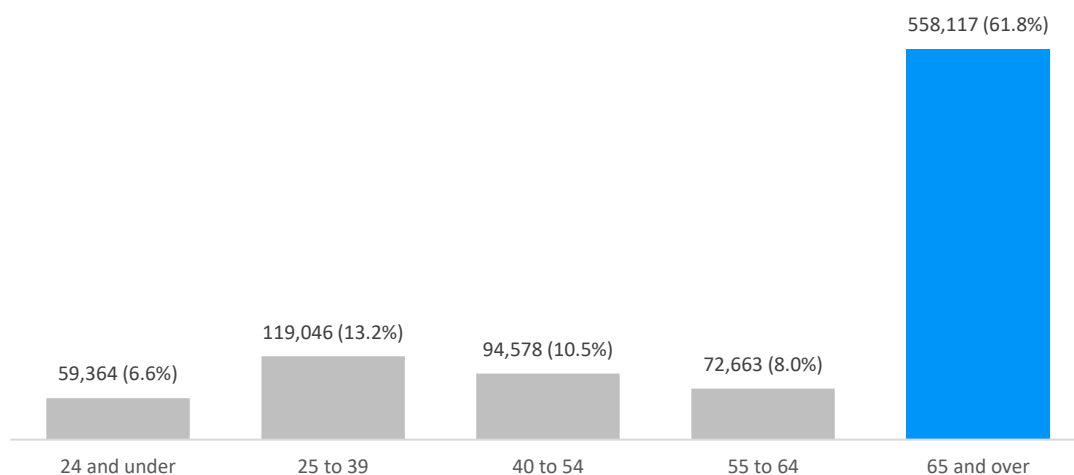
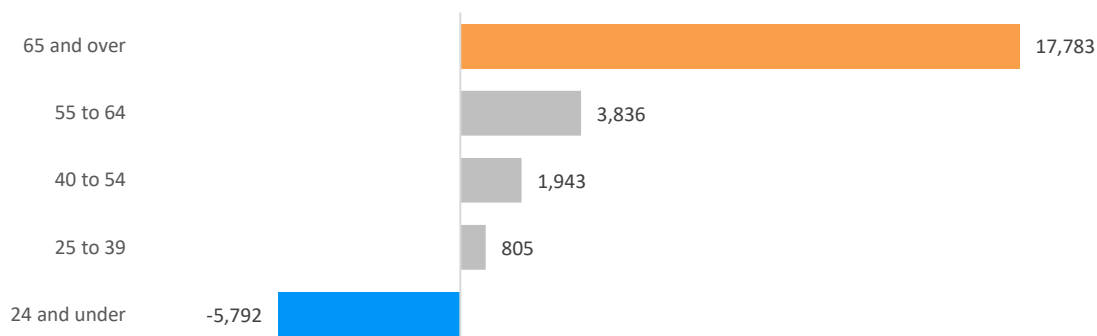


Figure 30 shows that growth in Winter Energy Payment recipients between June 2020 and June 2021 was largely driven by an increase in the 65 and over age group. There were smaller increases in number of recipients within the 25 to 39, 40 to 54 and 55 to 64 age groups. In contrast, there was a decrease in recipients aged 24 and under.

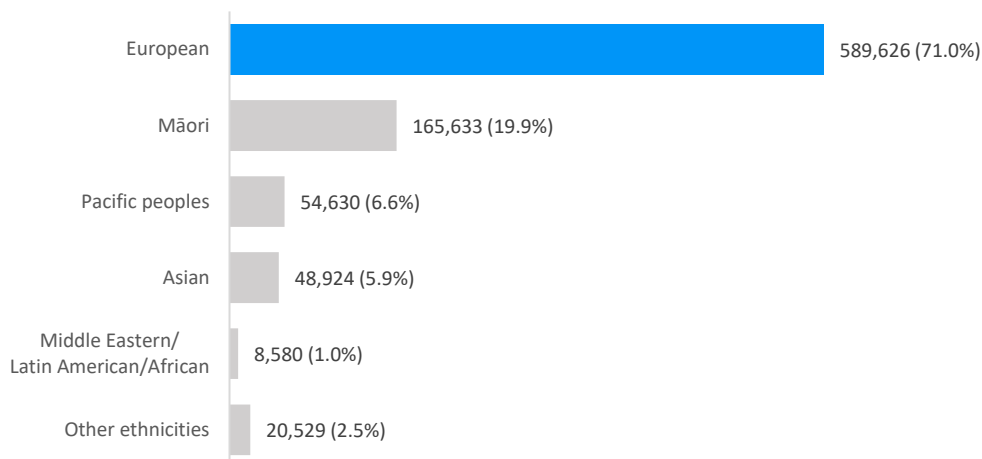
Figure 30: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and 2021, by age group.



Receipt by total response ethnic group²⁰

As at the end of June 2021, most Winter Energy Payment recipients with a recorded ethnicity identify as European (589,626, or 71.0 percent), followed by Māori (165,633, or 19.9 percent) and Pacific peoples (54,630, or 6.6 percent).

Figure 31: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2021, by total response ethnic group.

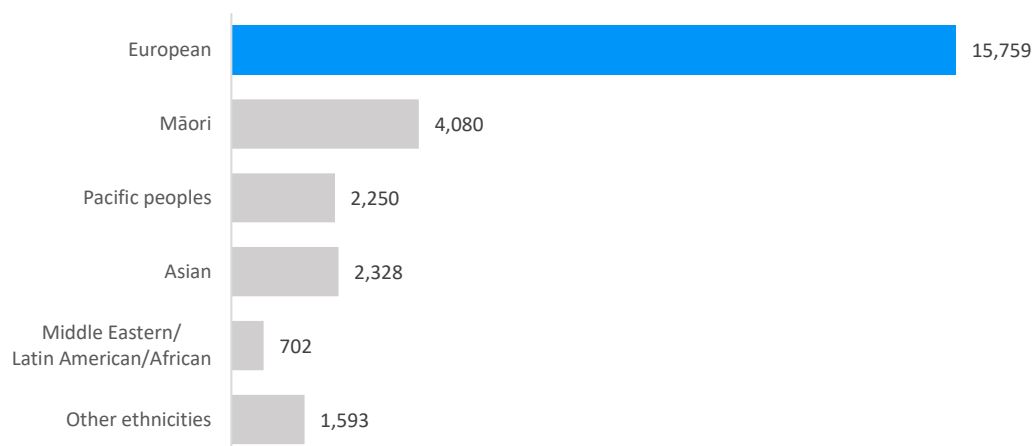


Note: There were 830,505 recipients with a recorded ethnicity, and 73,263 recipients with no ethnicity specified.

A large group of recipients (73,263 or 8.1 percent of total recipients) have no recorded ethnicity data. This group largely consists of older Superannuitants who have little interaction with MSD, and therefore present few opportunities for MSD to update this information.

Looking at the change over the past year, most of the growth in Winter Energy Payment receipt is from recipients who identify as European (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and June 2021, by total ethnic group response.

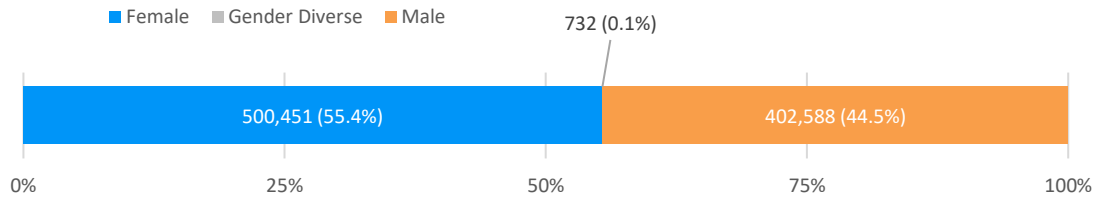


²⁰ Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Receipt by gender

As the end of June 2021, most Winter Energy Payment recipients were women (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Winter Energy Payment recipients as at the end of June 2021, by gender.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

As shown in Figure 34, from June 2020 to June 2021, there was a larger increase in male recipients, compared to female and gender diverse recipients. As noted, these counts do not include partners of primary benefit recipients (consistent with MSD’s standard reporting).

Figure 34: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and June 2021, by gender.



Receipt by MSD region

As at the end of June 2021, the region with the most Accommodation Supplement recipients is Auckland (Figure 35). Canterbury contains the largest number of recipients in the South Island, and the second most across the country. The geographical distribution of recipients broadly follows the trends seen in main benefit/New Zealand Superannuation receipt.

Figure 35: Winter Energy Payment recipients as at June 2021, by region.

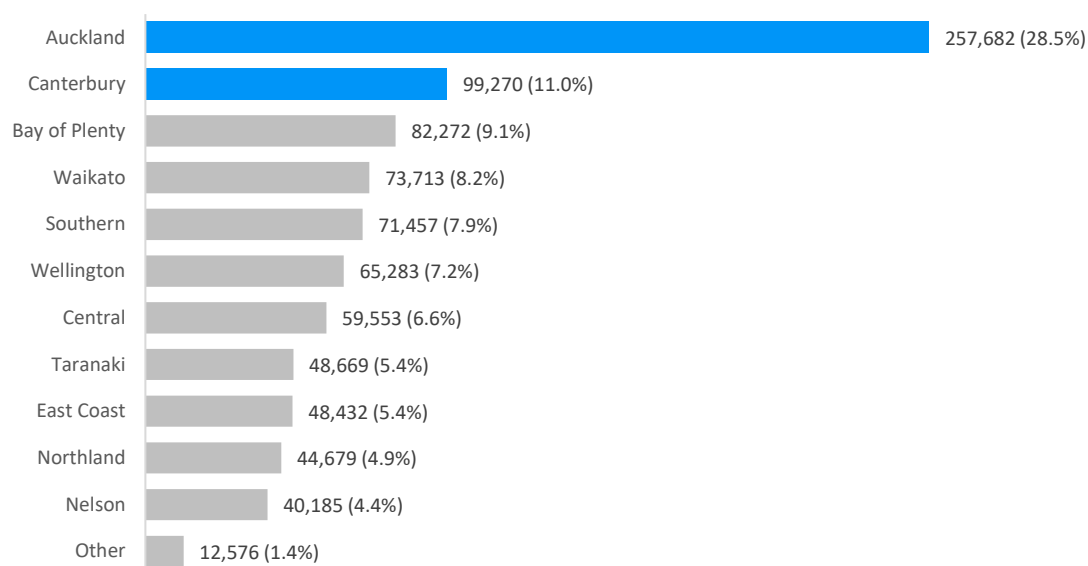
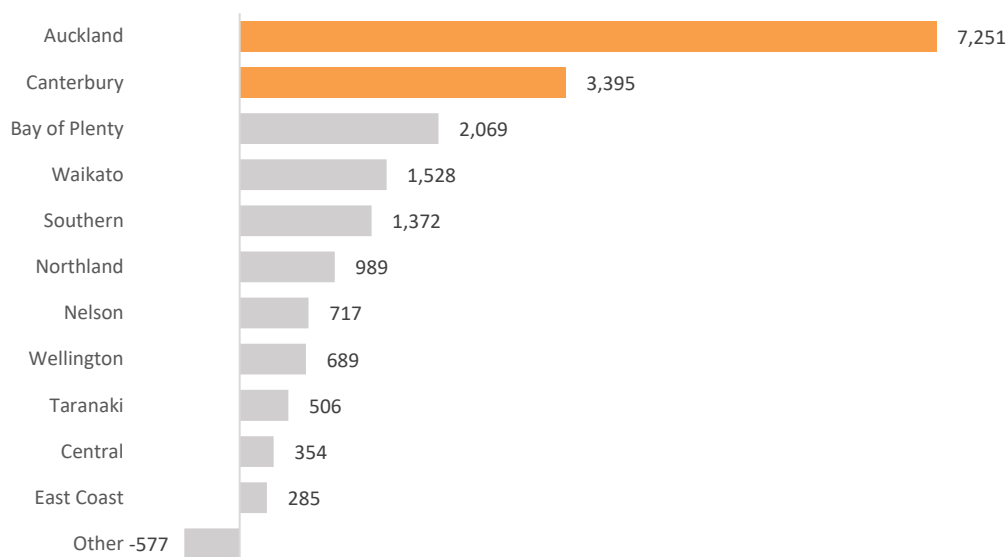


Figure 36 shows that the Auckland and Canterbury regions accounted for most of the growth in Winter Energy Payment recipients between the end of June 2020 and the end of June 2021.

Figure 36: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2020 and June 2021, by MSD region.



Accommodation Supplement

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for Accommodation Supplement by the following:

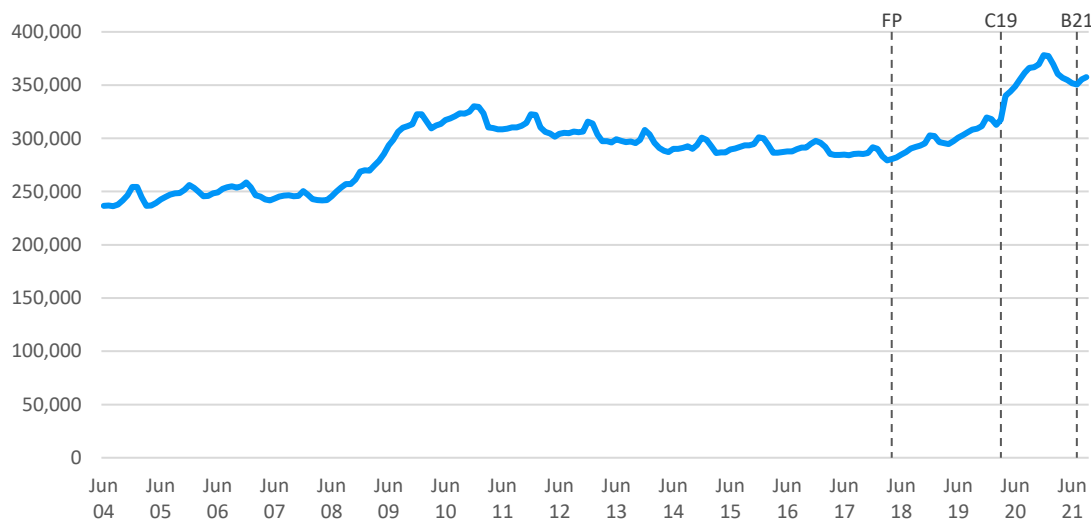
- main benefit received
- receipt of a health condition, disability, or caring related payment
- family type
- age group
- ethnicity
- gender
- whether the recipient is receiving other income
- region.

For ease of interpretation, overall trends in receipt are included below.

Overall receipt

As shown in Figure 37, the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients rose slightly between 2004 and mid-2008, before increasing sharply during late 2008 and through 2009 during the Global Financial Crisis, peaking in late 2010.²¹ From there, the number of recipients gradually declined until June 2018. The number of recipients has since begun to increase, particularly so between March 2020 and January 2021, corresponding with the impacts of COVID-19.

Figure 37: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since June 2004.



²¹ Policy changes under Working for Families resulted in the non-beneficiary count rising from about 20,000 to over 50,000 between October 2004 and mid-2008. This was mostly offset by a downward trend in the number of beneficiaries overall (and so on AS) as the economy grew in that period.

Receipt by main benefit received

Table 10 shows that as at the end of June 2021, many Accommodation Supplement recipients are receiving a main benefit.

Table 10: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by benefit grouping.

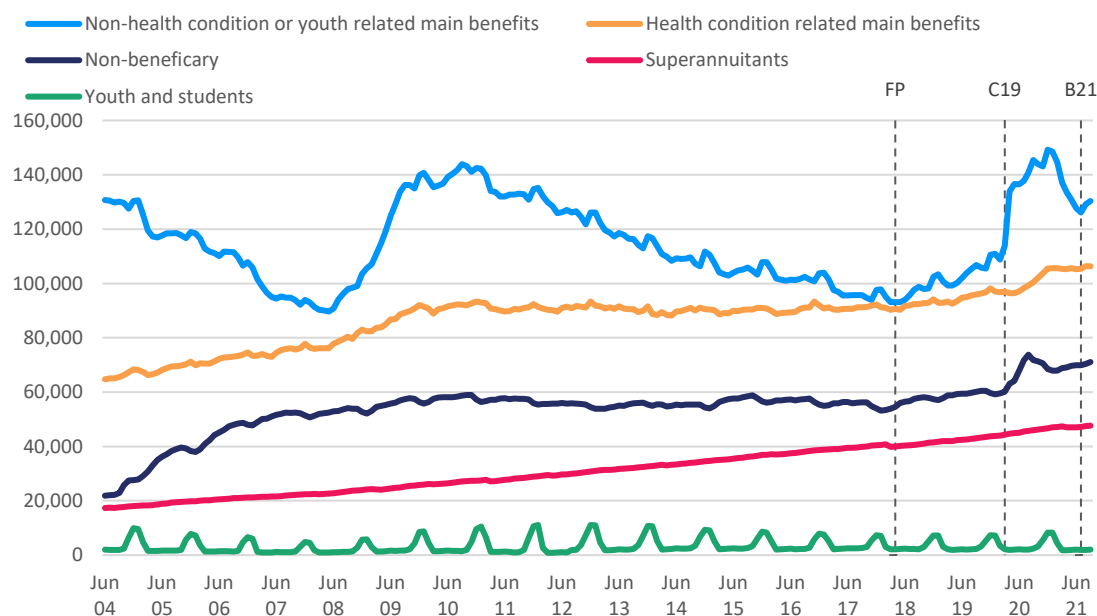
Benefit grouping	Number as at the end of June 2021
Non-health condition or youth related main benefits	127,797 (36.3%)
Health condition related main benefits	105,204 (29.9%)
Not on a main benefit	69,915 (19.9%)
Superannuitants	47,001 (13.4%)
Youth and students	1,995 (0.6%)
Total	351,912 (100%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Since 2004, recipients who were receiving a non-health condition or youth related main benefit have been the largest group of recipients. Over time, the proportion of Accommodation Supplement recipients who receive a benefit for a health condition or disability, are non-beneficiaries, or are Superannuitants has steadily increased (Figure 38).

Most of the growth from March 2020 to January 2021 is accounted for by recipients receiving non-health condition or youth related main benefits and non-beneficiaries.

Figure 38: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by benefit grouping.

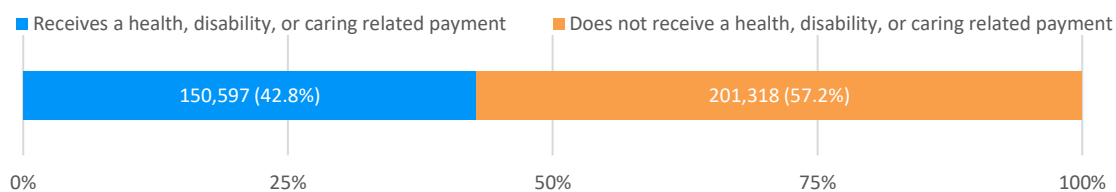


Receipt by payments for health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities^{22,23}

As at the end of June 2021, 42.8 percent of Accommodation Supplement recipients receive a payment from MSD relating to having, or caring for someone with, health conditions or disabilities (Figure 39).

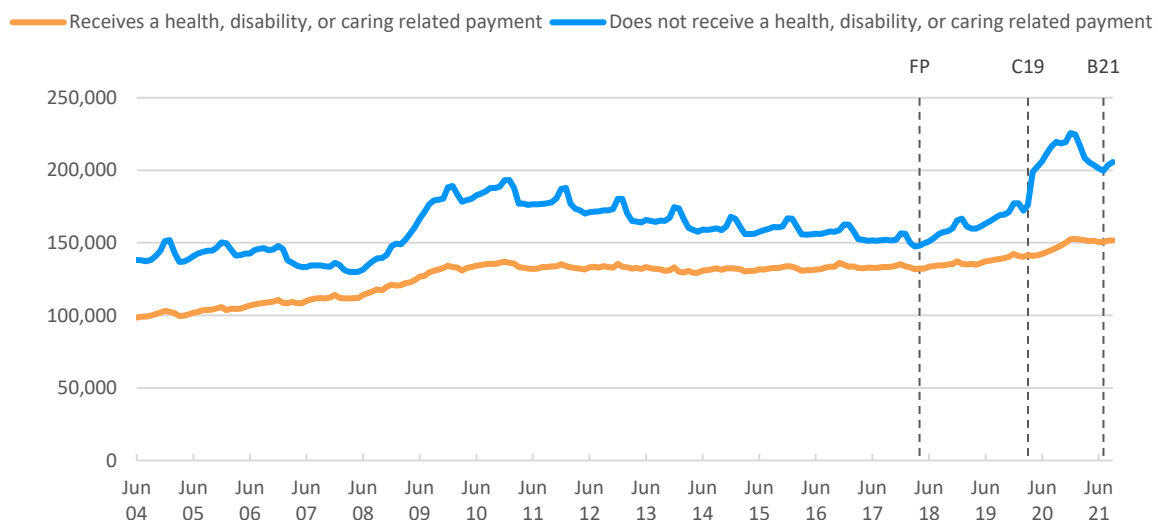
Recipients who have a health condition, disability, or care for someone but not receive assistance from MSD in relation to this are counted in the 'does not receive a health condition, disability or caring related payment' category. Therefore, figures presented in this section are an undercount of this population.

Figure 39: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.



Since the Families Package was introduced, there has been more growth in receipt for recipients who do not also receive a health, disability or caring related payment, than for those who do not, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. From January 2021 the number of recipients who do not also receive a health, disability or caring related payment declined (Figure 40).

Figure 40: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities.



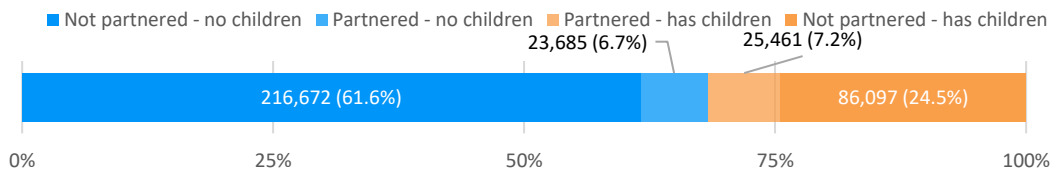
²² In this section payments are grouped based on if the recipient receives another payment from MSD relating to health conditions, disabilities, or caring responsibilities for someone with a health condition or disability (i.e. by whether or not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance or a Child Disability Allowance).

²³ Due to a revision in the code that is used to generate this specific dataset, the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients that receive a health, disability or caring related payment for previous years has been revised slightly upwards. These revisions do not impact on any conclusions we may have drawn in past years.

Receipt by family type

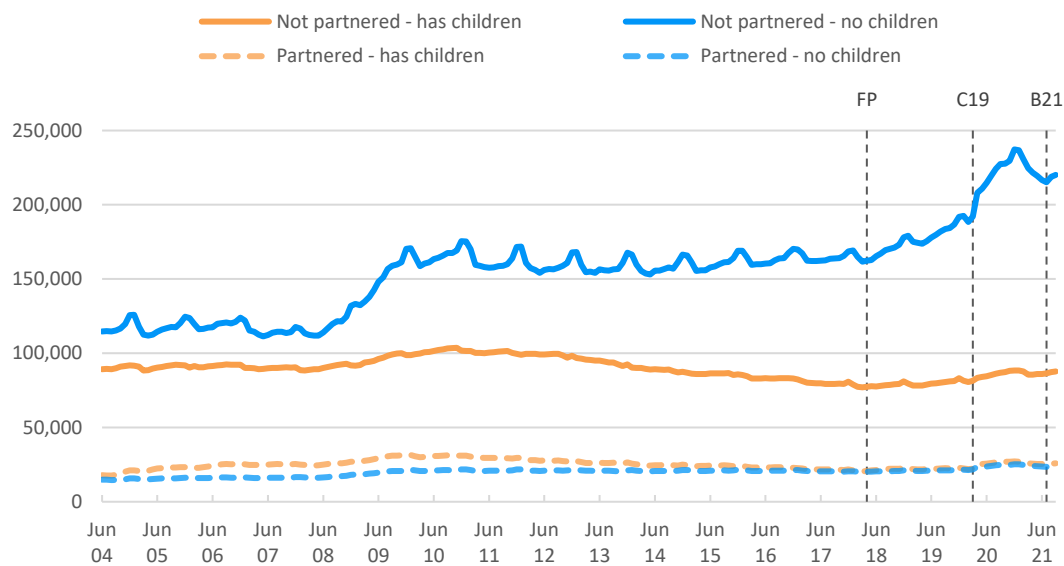
As at the end of June 2021, the largest group of Accommodation Supplement recipients were not partnered and had no dependent children. This was followed by a large group of sole parents. Recipients with partners and children were the third largest group, while recipients with partners and no children made up the smallest group of recipients (Figure 41).

Figure 41: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by family type.



Over time, recipients who are not partnered and do not have dependent children have driven growth in Accommodation Supplement receipt. In comparison, the other groups have remained fairly stable (Figure 42).

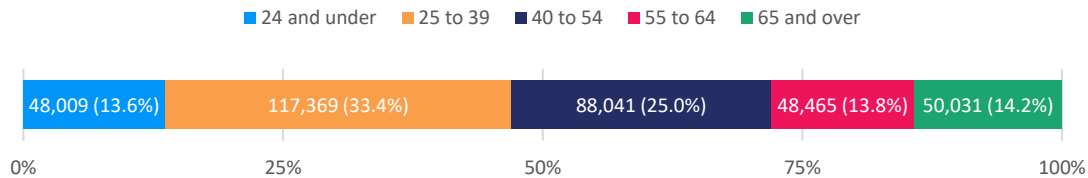
Figure 42: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by family type.



Receipt by age group

At the end of June 2021, recipients aged 25 to 39 years old made up the largest group of Accommodation Supplement recipients, followed by those aged 40 to 54 years old (Figure 43).

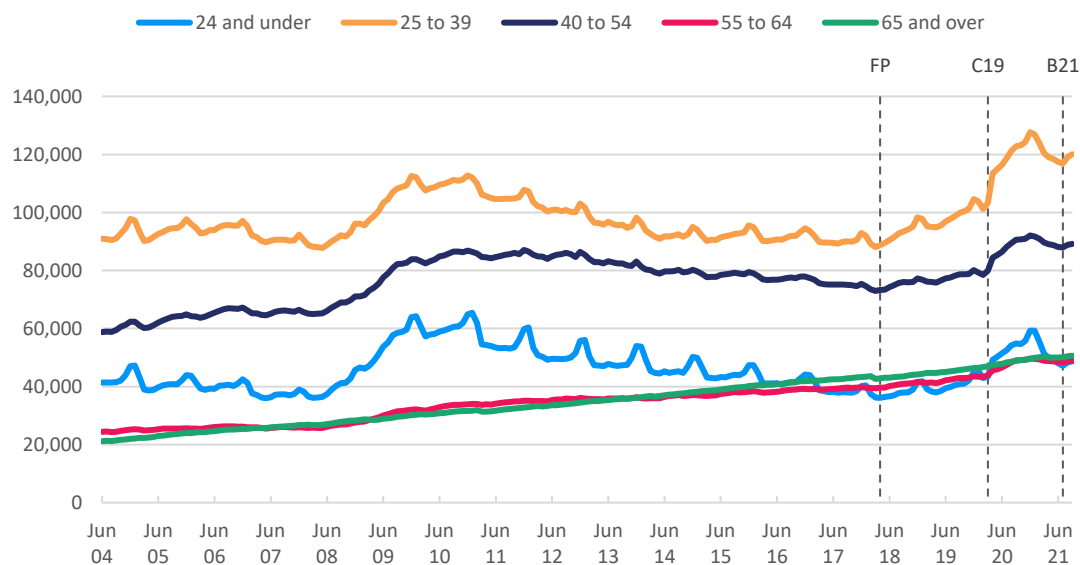
Figure 43: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by age group.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

As shown by figure 44, the number of recipients aged 55 to 64 and over 65 has been steadily growing since 2004. The 24 and under, 25 to 39, and 40 to 54 years age groups increased in 2008 to 2010 corresponding to the global financial crisis. The number of recipients in these age groups then declined until 2018. After the introduction of the family's package, receipt started to increase again, noticeably following the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

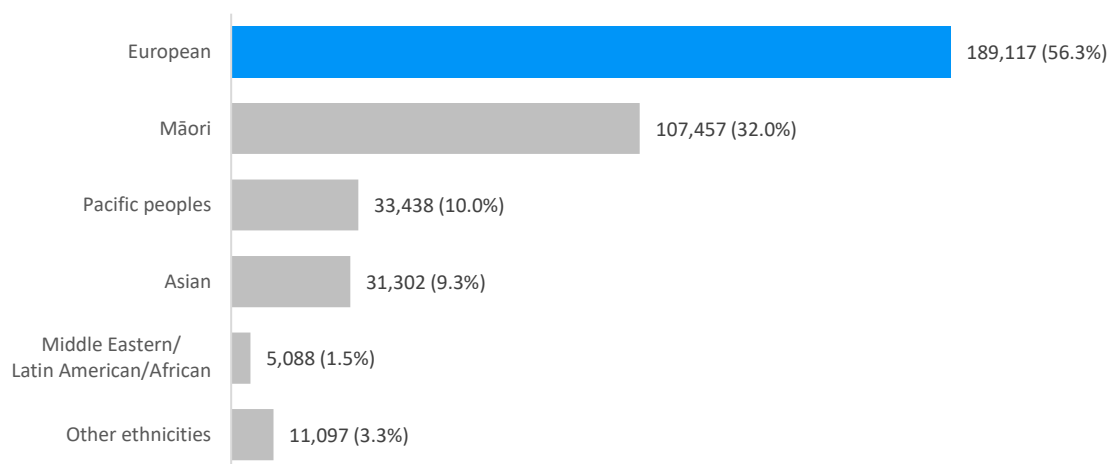
Figure 44: Accommodation Supplement recipients by age group, monthly since June 2004.



Receipt by total response ethnic group²⁴

As at the end of June 2021, most Accommodation Supplement recipients identify as European. The second most common ethnic group is Māori (Figure 45).

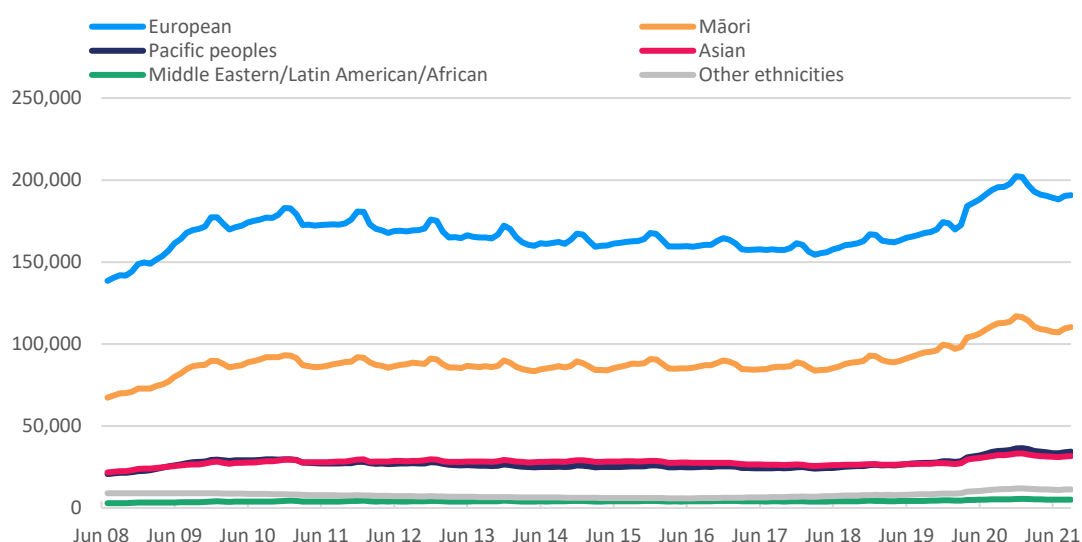
Figure 45: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by total response ethnic group.



Note: There were 335,880 recipients with a recorded ethnicity, and 16,032 recipients with no ethnicity specified.

After the global financial crisis, the number of Europeans receiving the Accommodation Supplement gradually declined, while the number of Māori receiving the Accommodation Supplement remained relatively stable. From March 2020 to January 2021 the number of recipients of all ethnicities increased, before declining again from January onwards.

Figure 46: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since the end of June 2004, by total response ethnic group.

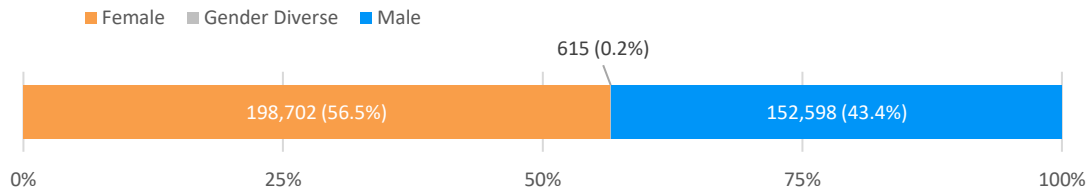


²⁴ Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Receipt by gender

As at the end of June 2021, most Accommodation Supplement recipients were women (Figure 47).

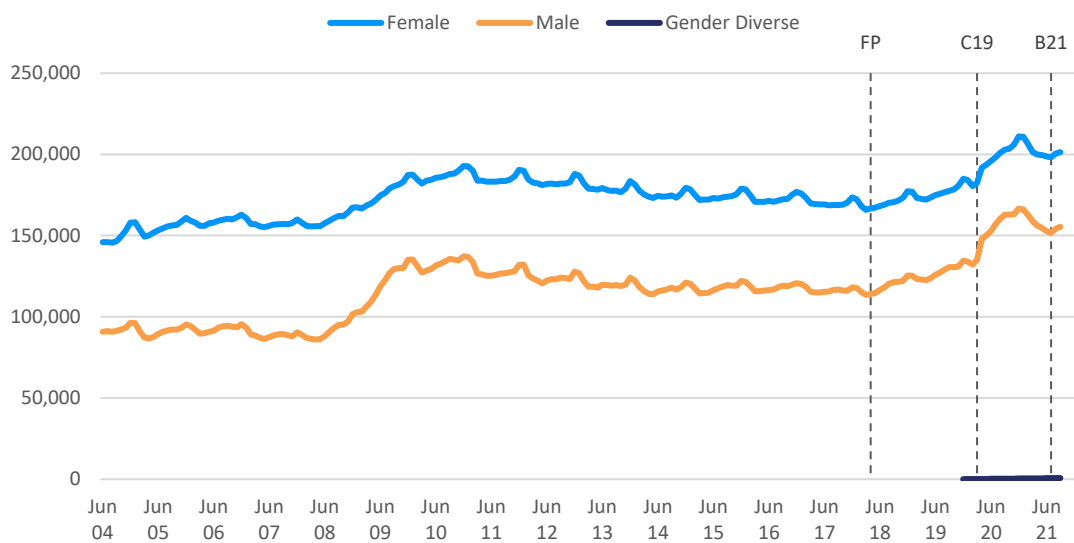
Figure 47: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by gender.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Over time, the number of women receiving an Accommodation Supplement payment has remained higher than the number of men. For both groups, trends in recipient are similar, decreasing after the global financial crisis and increasing following the Families Package and COVID-19.

Figure 48: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by gender.

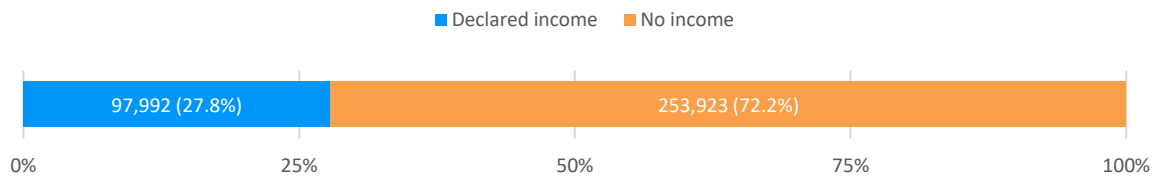


Receipt by other income²⁵

As at the end of June 2021, many Accommodation Supplement recipients do not report having another source of income (Figure 49).

Out of those who do report having other sources of income, most report having over \$300 in other outcome. This is likely related to the non-beneficiary population receiving an Accommodation Supplement.

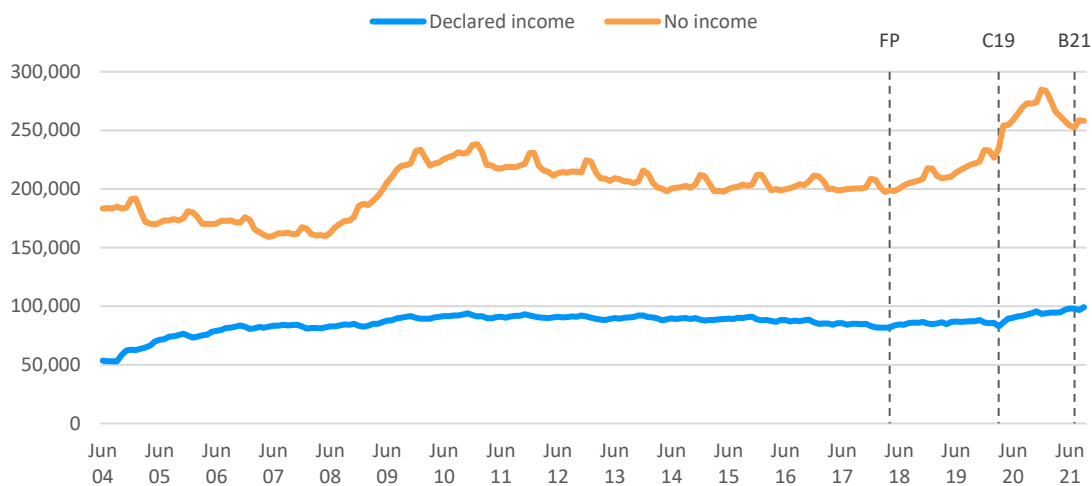
Figure 49: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2021, by whether they receive other income.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

The number of recipients who declared other income over time has broadly followed the trend in the number of non-beneficiaries receiving an Accommodation Supplement. Receipt for this group has remained stable since 2018. In comparison, receipt for those without other income has increased since 2018, markedly so since March 2020, before beginning to decrease from January 2021 (Figure 50).

Figure 50: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by whether they receive other income.

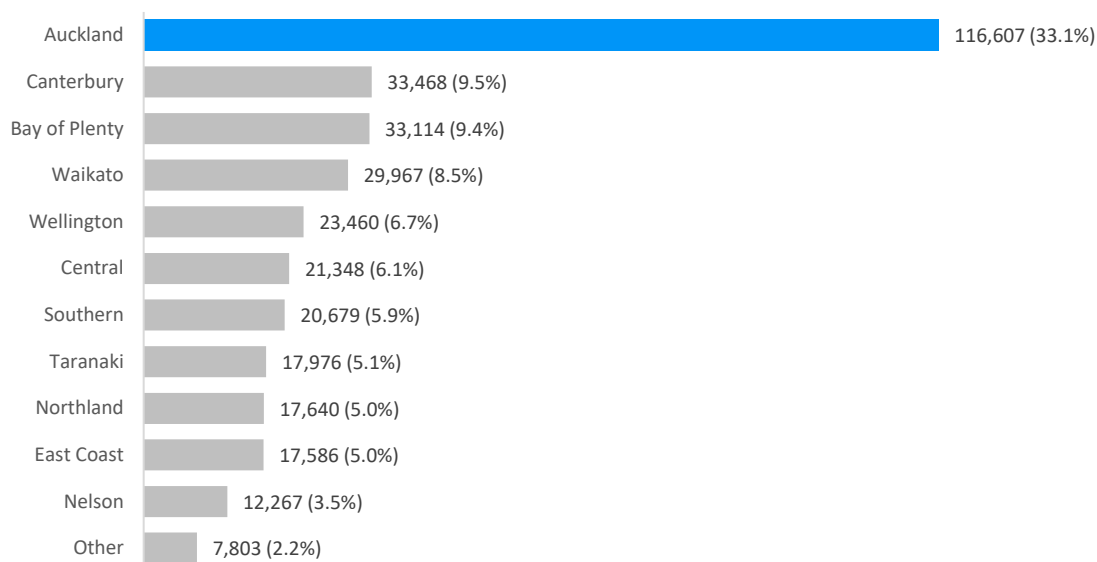


²⁵ This means an income not derived from a benefit payment or tax credit.

Receipt by MSD region

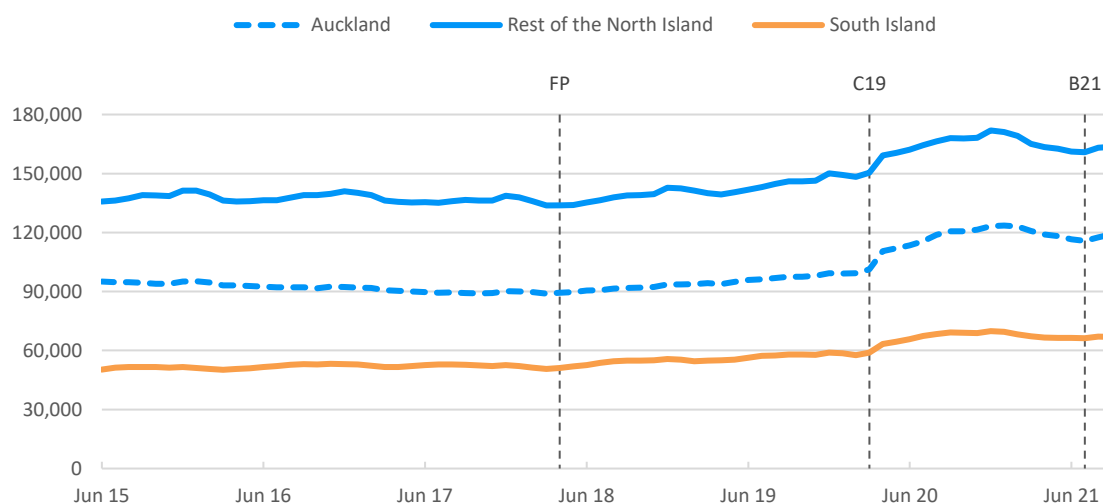
As shown by Figure 51, the region with the most Accommodation Supplement recipients is Auckland, consistent with overall population trends.

Figure 51: Accommodation Supplement receipt as at June 2021 by region.



Over time, across the MSD regions, trends in Accommodation Supplement receipt have been broadly similar (Figure 52).

Figure 52: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since June 2015, by MSD region.



Accommodation Benefit

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for Accommodation Benefit by the following:

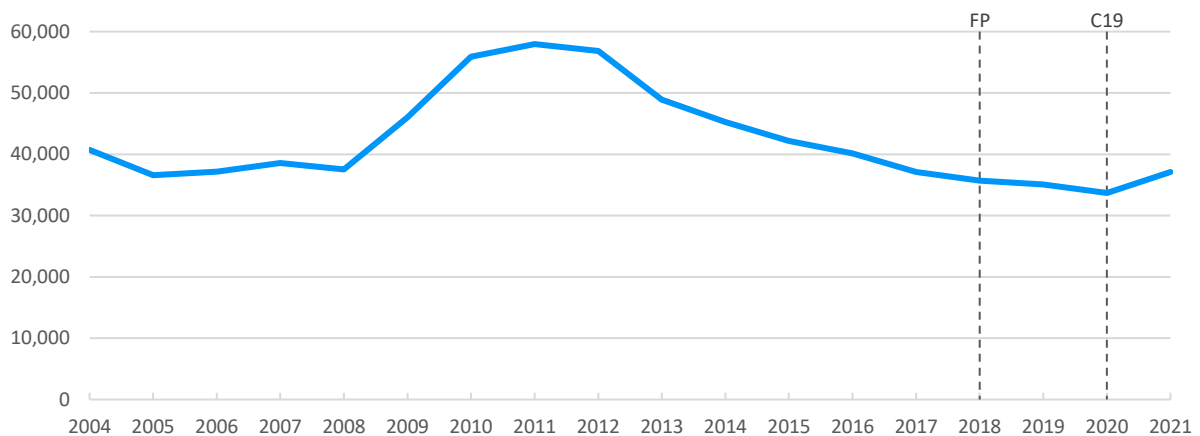
- partnership status
- age group
- ethnicity
- gender
- provider type.

For ease of interpretation, overall trends in receipt are included below.

Overall receipt

The number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit was decreasing after reaching a peak in 2011 during the Global Financial Crisis, until 2021 when the number of recipients began to increase (Figure 53).

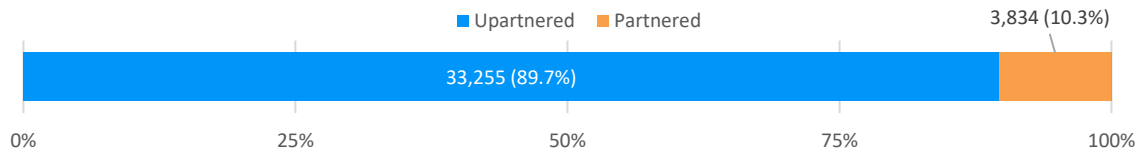
Figure 53: Total number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004.



Receipt by partnership status

In the year to 30 June 2021, most Accommodation Benefit recipients did not have a partner (Figure 54).

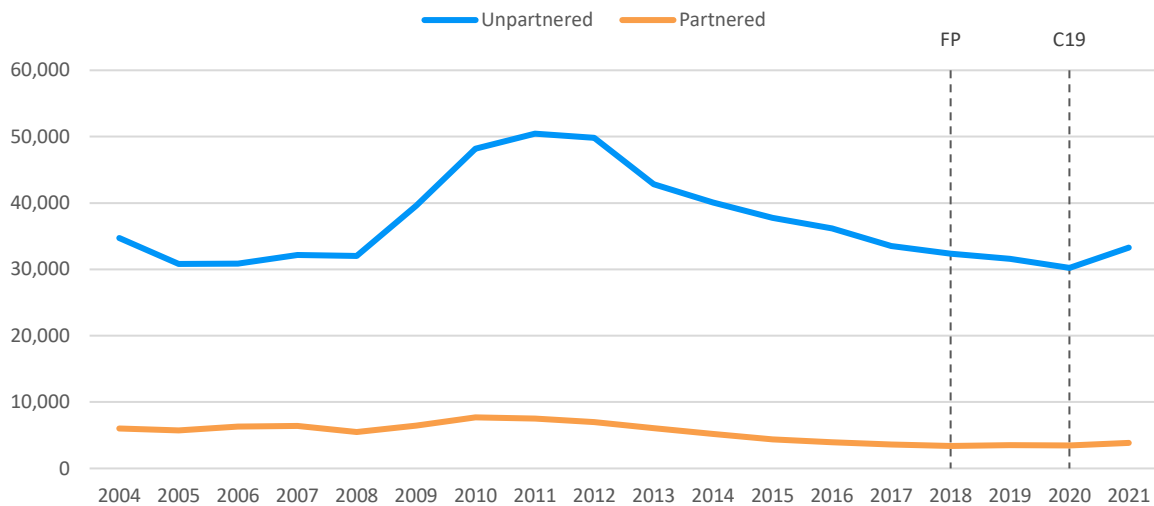
Figure 54: Total number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June 2021, by partnership status.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Over time, changes in Accommodation Benefit receipt have been driven by students without a partner (Figure 55).

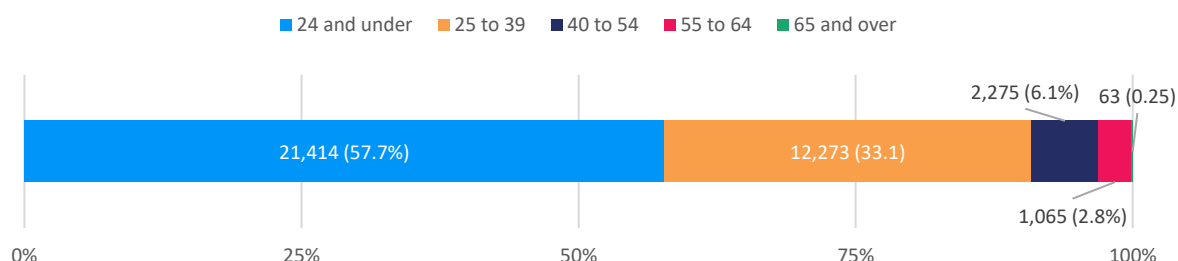
Figure 55: Total number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004, by partnership status.



Receipt by age group

In the year to 30 June 2021, most students receiving an Accommodation Benefit were aged 24 and under (Figure 56).

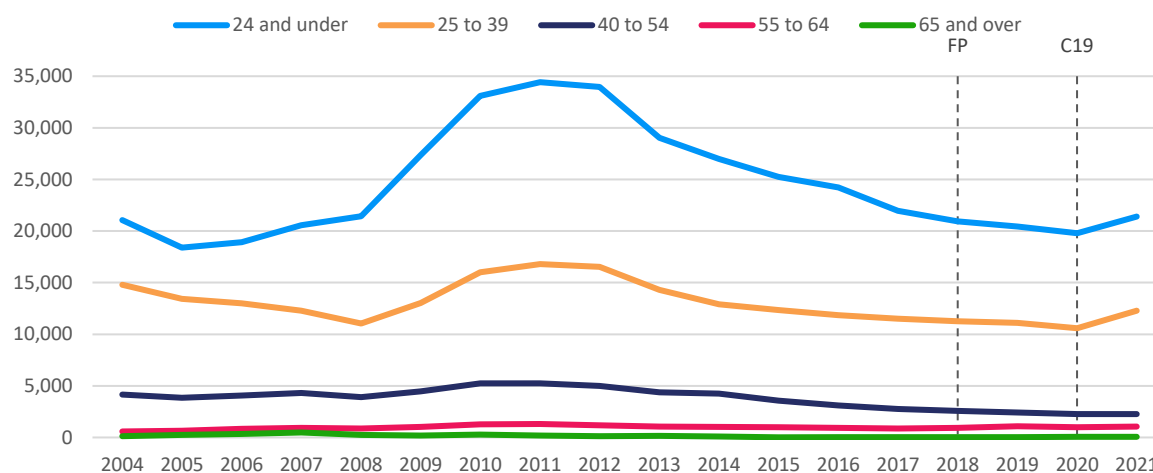
Figure 56: Total number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June 2021, by age group.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Over time, most students receiving an Accommodation Benefit have been under the age of 40. This group also had the largest change in numbers during the Global Financial Crisis and are responsible for the growth in Accommodation Benefit recipients in 2021 (Figure 57).

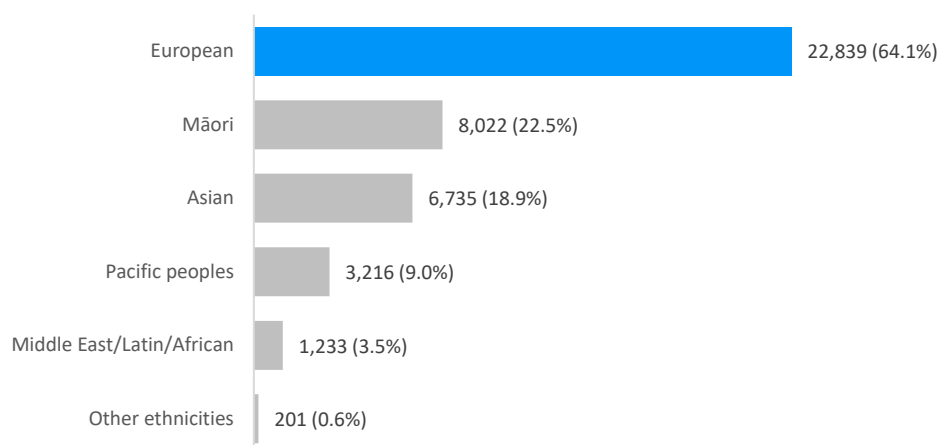
Figure 57: Total number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004, by age group.



Receipt by total response ethnic group²⁶

In the year to 30 June 2021, many students receiving an Accommodation Benefit identify as European, followed by Māori and Asian (Figure 58).

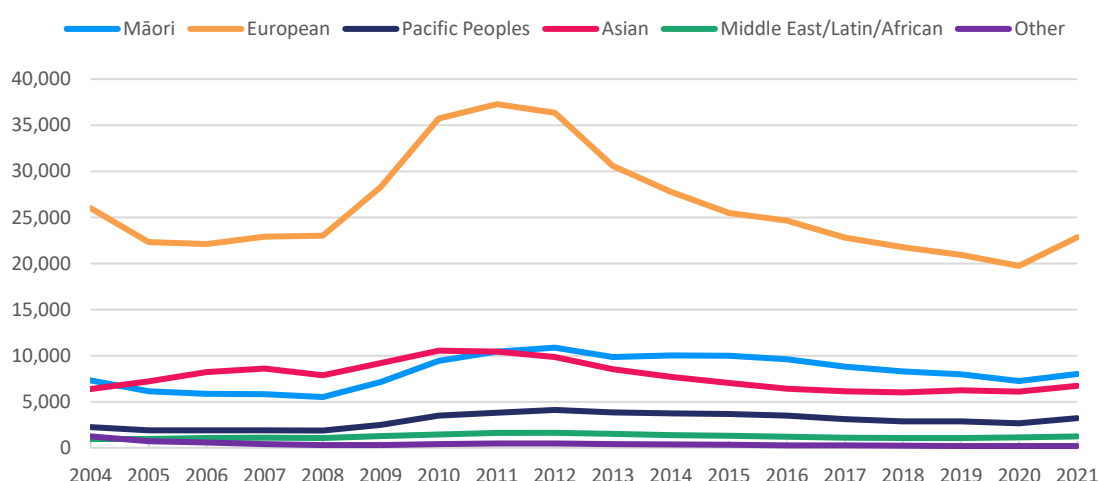
Figure 58: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June 2021, by total response ethnic group.



Note: There were 35,631 recipients with a recorded ethnicity, and 1,461 recipients with no ethnicity specified.

As shown by Figure 59, the increase in students receiving an Accommodation Benefit during the Global Financial Crisis and decrease following it was largely driven by students who identified as European and Māori. Students who identified as European also drove the increase in Accommodation Benefit receipt after the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Figure 59: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004, by selected ethnicity.

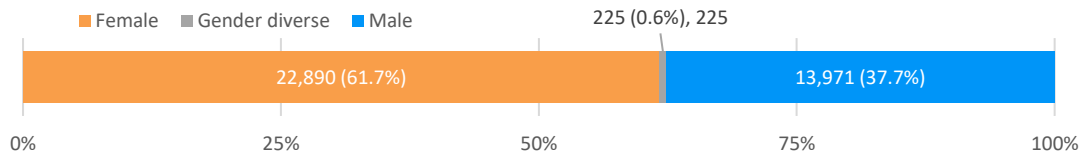


²⁶ It is not mandatory for students to disclose their ethnicity and students may report more than one ethnicity. In this section, ethnic groups are reported on a total response, non-prioritised basis – this is not consistent with how student data is currently reported. Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Receipt by gender

In the year to 30 June 2021, most students receiving the Accommodation Benefit were women (Figure 60).

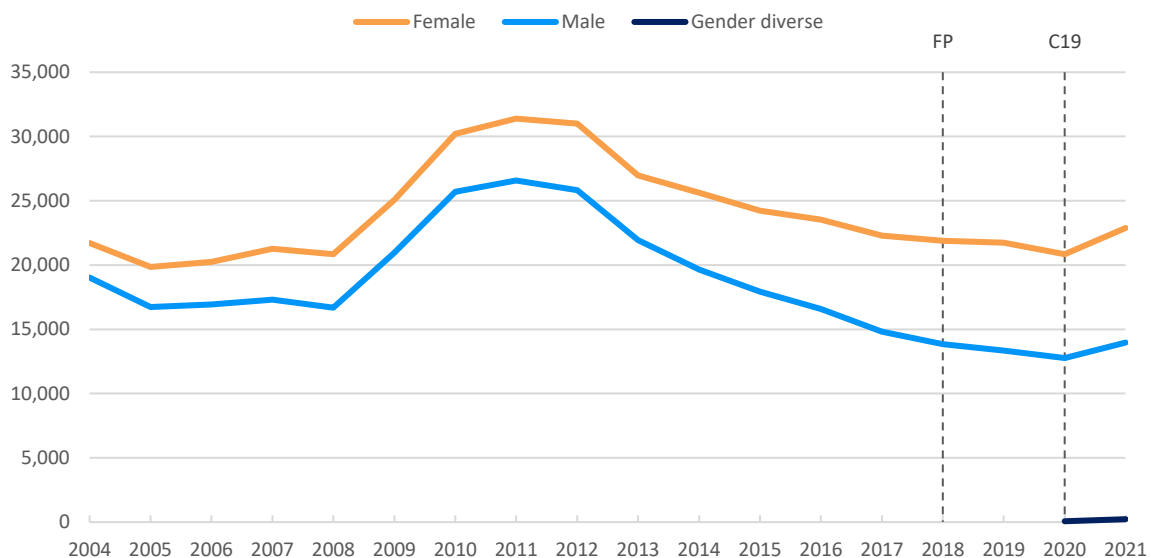
Figure 60: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June 2021, by gender.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and random rounding effects.

Figure 61 shows that women have made up most students receiving an Accommodation Benefit since 2004. From 2012 to 2020 the fall in numbers has been larger for men than women. The increase in recipients in 2021 is similar for men and women.

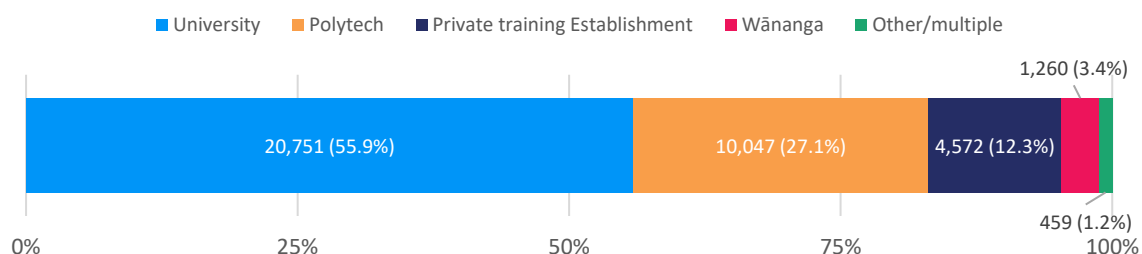
Figure 61: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004, by gender.



Receipt by provider type

In the year to 30 June 2020, most students receiving an Accommodation Benefit were enrolled at a university (Figure 62).

Figure 62: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June 2020, by provider type.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Since 2004, most students receiving an Accommodation Benefit have been enrolled at a university. After COVID-19, the number of recipients at Universities and Polytechs increased, driving the overall increase in Accommodation Benefit recipients (Figure 63).

Figure 63: Number of students receiving an Accommodation Benefit in the year to 30 June, since 2004, by selected provider types.

