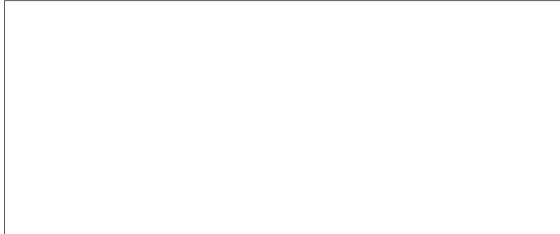




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

9 AUG 2016



On 14 July 2014 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Copies of all papers, reports, briefings that went to Cabinet or Cabinet Committee on proposed changes or changes to the Community Services Card since March 2016.*
- *Copies of all reports, aide memoires, briefings, advice that was sent to either the Minister of Health's, Revenue, or Social Development's offices on proposed changes to the Community Services card or the business case for any changes since March 2016.*

There are no documents in scope of your request. As such your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

I understand you made the same request to the Ministry of Health and to the Inland Revenue Department and as such I have not transferred this request.

As you will be aware, the Ministry of Social Development administers the Community Services Card which entitles the holder to higher subsidies for after-hours and out-of-town general practitioners' fees than are otherwise available, subsidised access to some other health services provided by public hospitals and access to a number of other health services. To receive a Community Services Card, a person must be receiving a low to middle income. These cards are issued on an annual basis and are valid for 12 months.

Further information about the Community Services Card is available on the Ministry's website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html

I am sorry I could not be more helpful with your request regarding changes to the Community Services card. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Rachel Sutherland
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services