



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

12 DEC 2016



On 28 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of parents on each main benefit for the most recent full year broken down by the ages of children eg 0-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-13 years, 14-17 years, 18-19 years and the number of dependent children ie 1, 2, 3, 4, 5+.*

Please find enclosed two tables. Table one shows the number of parents in receipt of a main benefit, broken down by main benefit type and the age of the clients' children. Table two shows the number of parents in receipt of a main benefit, broken down by the number of dependent children per client.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response regarding parents on main benefits. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**

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**Table 1. Working age clients on main benefits who have children, broken down by the age group of the clients' children.**

Quarter ending	Benefit Group	Count of parents	Total number of children	Count of children aged 0 to 4	Count of children aged 5 to 9	Count of children aged 10 to 13	Count of children aged 14 plus.
December 2015	Supported Living Payment Related	10,722	18,267	2,719	4,892	4,870	5,786
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	1,010	1,525	521	S	286	S
	Sole Parent Support	68,258	128,791	49,059	44,099	25,306	10,327
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	656	705	S	S	0	0
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	1,663	2,972	669	1,051	654	598
	Emergency Benefit	600	1,179	S	S	232	S
	Jobseeker Support	18,514	32,302	8,484	6,965	4,973	11,880
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101,423</b>	<b>185,741</b>	<b>62,528</b>	<b>57,948</b>	<b>36,321</b>	<b>28,944</b>
March 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,683	18,272	2,660	4,799	4,825	5,988
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	952	1,444	475	562	286	121
	Sole Parent Support	66,362	125,946	47,605	43,118	24,655	10,568
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	648	705	703	S	0	S
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	27	51	9	S	12	S
	Emergency Benefit	346	691	234	181	136	140
	Jobseeker Support	17,965	31,287	7,985	6,504	4,713	12,085
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,983</b>	<b>178,396</b>	<b>59,671</b>	<b>55,182</b>	<b>34,627</b>	<b>28,916</b>
June 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,833	18,568	2,683	4,784	4,842	6,259
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	934	1,447	468	562	298	119
	Sole Parent Support	65,384	124,592	46,749	42,682	24,392	10,769
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	665	731	724	S	S	S
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	61	107	23	S	S	S
	Emergency Benefit	370	744	250	197	141	156
	Jobseeker Support	18,721	32,788	8,379	6,730	4,926	12,753
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,968</b>	<b>178,977</b>	<b>59,276</b>	<b>54,996</b>	<b>34,620</b>	<b>30,085</b>
September 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,959	18,774	2,693	4,806	4,784	6,491
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	907	1,433	457	553	303	120
	Sole Parent Support	64,341	123,402	45,785	42,391	24,249	10,977
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	704	776	770	S	S	S
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	S	7	S	S	S	S
	Emergency Benefit	S	1,060	S	284	217	246
	Jobseeker Support	19,519	34,280	8,801	7,003	5,149	13,327
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,980</b>	<b>179,732</b>	<b>58,821</b>	<b>55,041</b>	<b>34,706</b>	<b>31,164</b>

**Notes:**

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect clients' privacy.

**Table 2. Working age clients on main benefits who have children, broken down by number of children per client.**

Quarter ending	Benefit Group	Count of parents	Total number of children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 + children
December 2015	Supported Living Payment Related	10,722	18,267	6,118	2,787	1,148	395	274
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	1,010	1,525	678	S	S	23	17
	Sole Parent Support	68,258	128,791	31,258	21,604	9,884	3,709	1,803
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	656	705	608	S	S	0	0
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	1,663	2,972	850	490	204	78	41
	Emergency Benefit	600	1,179	275	177	81	42	25
	Jobseeker Support	18,514	32,302	10,753	4,337	1,940	828	656
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101,423</b>	<b>185,741</b>	<b>50,540</b>	<b>29,654</b>	<b>13,338</b>	<b>5,075</b>	<b>2,816</b>
March 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,683	18,272	6,075	2,770	1,162	399	277
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	952	1,444	633	212	65	25	17
	Sole Parent Support	66,362	125,946	30,211	20,932	9,692	3,698	1,829
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	648	705	593	S	S	0	0
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	27	51	16	S	0	S	S
	Emergency Benefit	346	691	165	95	S	S	S
	Jobseeker Support	17,965	31,287	10,443	4,261	1,838	777	646
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,983</b>	<b>178,396</b>	<b>48,136</b>	<b>28,330</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>2,793</b>
June 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,833	18,568	6,169	2,772	1,188	418	286
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	934	1,447	602	220	65	S	S
	Sole Parent Support	65,384	124,592	29,554	20,705	9,571	3,700	1,854
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	665	731	607	52	S	0	S
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	61	107	31	18	S	S	S
	Emergency Benefit	370	744	175	96	51	27	21
	Jobseeker Support	18,721	32,788	10,767	4,494	1,975	823	662
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,968</b>	<b>178,977</b>	<b>47,905</b>	<b>28,357</b>	<b>12,864</b>	<b>5,002</b>	<b>2,840</b>
September 2016	Supported Living Payment Related	10,959	18,774	6,254	2,795	1,195	421	294
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	907	1,433	574	215	67	35	16
	Sole Parent Support	64,341	123,402	28,815	20,399	9,518	3,692	1,917
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	704	776	640	S	S	0	0
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	S	7	S	0	S	0	0
	Emergency Benefit	S	1,060	S	S	80	23	32
	Jobseeker Support	19,519	34,280	11,187	4,727	1,999	913	693
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96,980</b>	<b>179,732</b>	<b>47,738</b>	<b>28,338</b>	<b>12,868</b>	<b>5,084</b>	<b>2,952</b>

**Notes:**

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
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