



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

13 OCT 2016

Dear

On 6 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding the Accommodation Supplement:

- *For the 2015/16 financial year, a count of people receiving the accommodation supplement in Auckland and how much in total is paid to them*
- *This data should be grouped by their household tenure type: whether they own their own house or they rent*
- *If it is possible ideally we would like the people who rent to be split by whether their landlord is a private business/person or not.*

The Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards accommodation costs. It is available for people who rent, board or own their own home and a person does not have to be receiving a benefit to qualify. It is calculated using a formula that takes into account the geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership).

Further information about the Accommodation Supplement, including the entry thresholds and maximum payable rates, is available at the following link:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html)

You will find enclosed a table showing the number of clients in the Auckland Metro Region receiving the Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of December 2015, broken down by tenure type.

I am unable to provide this table broken down by landlord type, as this information is not recorded by the Ministry in a way which would allow it to be reported. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have

concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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. 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**

**Table One: The number of clients in the Auckland Metro Region receiving the Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of December 2015 broken down by tenure type**

<b>Tenure Type</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>	<b>Weekly Sum of Accommodation Supplement Payments</b>	<b>Average Weekly Rate of Accommodation Supplement Payments</b>
<b>Renting</b>	63,994	\$7,357,883	\$115
<b>Boarding</b>	20,236	\$804,585	\$40
<b>Own Home</b>	10,886	\$1,148,320	\$105
<b>Total</b>	95,116	\$9,310,787	\$98

**Notes**

These tables include clients of all ages.

Accommodation Supplement is paid weekly for rent, mortgage or board.

The number of recipients of Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an Accommodation Supplement for their housing-related costs and not a count of households.