



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 AUG 2017

Dear

On 21 July 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to obtain anonymised data that provides proportions of beneficiaries who have been receiving benefits for the following time periods:*
 - *0 - 3 months*
 - *3 - 6 months*
 - *6 - 12 months*
 - *3 years*
 - *3 - 5 years*
 - *Over 5 years*
- *I would like this data for all benefits with the exception of NZ Superannuation.*

I have enclosed a table showing the current working age clients on main benefits by continuous duration, as at 30 June from 2015 to 2017. Please note, statistics have not been provided for Unsupported Child's Benefits and Orphan's Benefits, as they are not stated as a main benefit under the Social Security Act 1964. Main benefits also exclude Veterans Pensions as this is an entitlement.

Further information regarding benefits available to people and the eligibility criteria of each benefit are available at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding clients in receipt of a main benefit by continuous duration, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Current Working age clients on main benefits by continuous duration as at 30 June 2015 to 30 June 2017.

Year ending 30 June	Benefit Group	Continuous duration							Total
		0 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 - 12 Months	1 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	Over 5 years		
2015	Emergency Benefit	720	123	160	284	73	127	1,487	
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	69	77	132	343	191	277	1,089	
	Jobseeker Support	18,261	13,649	20,607	28,564	11,806	25,185	118,072	
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	362	S	S	S	0	0	S	
	Supported Living Payment related	964	1,187	2,736	12,796	10,036	66,240	93,959	
	Sole Parent Support	3,922	4,067	6,978	17,780	11,656	24,837	69,240	
	Widow's Benefit Overseas	0	0	0	S	0	S	S	
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	82	207	325	488	8	0	1,110	
	Emergency Benefit	538	128	151	256	86	108	1,267	
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	72	64	106	245	153	289	935	
2016	Jobseeker Support	18,134	13,488	20,838	29,829	11,159	24,506	117,954	
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	352	S	S	0	0	0	371	
	Supported Living Payment related	1,006	1,140	2,429	12,433	9,582	66,653	93,243	
	Sole Parent Support	3,895	3,899	7,105	17,734	10,073	22,716	65,422	
	Widow's Benefit Overseas	0	0	0	0	S	S	S	
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	S	179	258	469	S	0	983	
	Emergency Benefit	427	152	155	231	88	111	1,164	
	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	57	47	103	240	128	253	828	
	Jobseeker Support	17,609	13,376	20,314	31,432	11,755	24,290	118,776	
	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	266	S	S	0	0	0	290	
Supported Living Payment related	967	1,207	2,468	10,189	11,236	66,924	92,991		

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Year ending 30 June	Benefit Group	Continuous duration						Total
		0 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6-12 Months	1 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	Over 5 years	
2017	Sole Parent Support	3,780	3,887	6,930	16,797	9,016	20,221	60,631
	Sole Parent Support Overseas	0	0	0	S	0	0	S
	Widow's Benefit Overseas	0	0	0	0	S	0	S
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	127	270	392	793	67	0	1,649

Notes:

- Continuous duration is how long the current recipients of a benefit (or benefit group) have been continuously receiving a benefit in the wider benefit system, including time on all benefits except:
 - Unsupported Child's Benefit
 - Orphan's Benefit
 - New Zealand Superannuation
 - Veteran's Pension
 - Non-Beneficiary assistance
- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect client's privacy.