



Dear

On 29 May 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982,

- *A break-down of the number of people receiving an Accommodation Supplement for mortgage payments, board or rent.*

An Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit which provides financial 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 geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and accommodation type. For example, renting, boarding or home ownership.

Please find enclosed a table which shows the total number of Accommodation Supplement recipients broken down by accommodation type.

Further information about the Accommodation Supplement, including trends and relevant statistics, is publically available on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/statistical-report/statistical-report-2008/supplementary-benefits/accommodation-supplement.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 after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 Accommodation Supplements, 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 read 'Ruth Bound', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table 1: The number of Accommodation Supplement recipients broken down by accommodation type, as at 31 March 2017.

Accommodation Type	Recipients
Renting	189,280
Boarding	63,713
Own home	32,181
Total	285,174

Notes:

- Paid weekly for rent, mortgage or board.
- The number of recipients of the Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an Accommodation Supplement for their housing purposes. It is not necessarily a count of households.