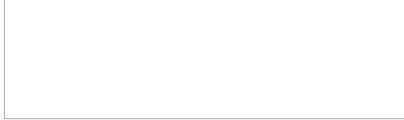




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 5 MAY 2017



Dear 

On 4 April 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Each year for the last ten years, the total expenditure on New Zealand Superannuation divided by the number of recipients.*

As you will be aware the rate of New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) is based on whether a person is single and sharing accommodation or living alone, married, in a civil union or de facto relationship. Other circumstances are also taken into account when determining an applicable payment rate. For example, a married person who opts to include their non-qualifying spouse in their NZS payment will not receive the married rate of NZS. Instead the couple will receive a non-qualified partner rate of NZS.

Additional information about numbers of benefit recipients may be found in the Benefit Factsheets published at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html

Please find enclosed a table that shows the number of New Zealand Superannuation clients and the average weekly net amount paid, by payment rate category as at the end of December, for the last ten years between 2007 and 2016.

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 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 regarding the average New Zealand Superannuation rates with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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 oval shape.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

The number of New Zealand Superannuation clients and the average weekly net amount paid, by payment rate category as at the end of December, between 2007 and 2016.

New Zealand Superannuation payment rate category	As at the end of December									
	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate
Married	298,827	\$203.31	308,352	\$217.19	322,311	\$223.86	336,485	\$234.72	354,195	\$244.05
Single	36	\$57.52	37	\$53.97	33	\$50.47	39	\$61.49	25	\$85.59
Single Living Alone	138,683	\$272.32	141,393	\$290.89	145,362	\$303.77	151,229	\$320.19	154,933	\$332.34
Single Sharing	71,357	\$245.95	71,768	\$261.32	72,267	\$269.83	73,006	\$280.60	75,892	\$289.30
Total	508,903	\$228.11	521,550	\$243.26	539,973	\$251.55	560,759	\$263.77	585,045	\$273.34

New Zealand Superannuation payment rate category	As at the end of December									
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate	Number of clients	Average net rate
Married	373,577	\$249.40	392,658	\$254.44	409,303	\$260.21	427,242	\$264.45	444,785	\$271.37
Single	28	\$48.66	25	\$59.12	21	\$49.22	27	\$43.37	26	\$68.00
Single Living Alone	159,488	\$340.77	164,727	\$348.68	170,242	\$357.55	175,248	\$364.51	180,448	\$374.42
Single Sharing	79,162	\$293.88	82,559	\$297.95	84,615	\$302.78	88,689	\$305.46	92,621	\$311.98
Total	612,255	\$278.99	639,969	\$284.34	664,181	\$290.60	691,206	\$295.12	717,880	\$302.54

Notes:

- NZS Payment rate categories are not always indicative of clients' relationship status. For instance, a client may be married and still receive the single living alone rate due to their spouse being in residential care.
- The married NZS payment rate is the rate that each partner receives.
- NZS paid at the single rate for all pensioners who are single and are not entitled to a living alone payment ie. where sharing accommodation
- The average net NZS rate is the average weekly rate of NZS paid to the client after tax and does not include any other forms of supplementary assistance. For instance, Accommodation Supplement.