



07 SEP 2017

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Ms s 9(2)(a)

On 18 July 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *June 2013 main benefit statistics for service centres in the Bay of Plenty Region, broken down by post-Welfare Reform benefit types.*

In 15 July 2013, New Zealand's welfare system changed which involved changes to the types of benefits and obligations clients must meet. The focus is on what people can do to achieve a better future for themselves and their family. Three benefits replaced most of the previous benefit types, including the types you requested information for. These are:

- **Jobseeker Support** – Replaced the Unemployment Benefit, Sickness Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit (Women Alone, Sole Parent if youngest child is aged 14 and over) and the Widow's Benefit (without children, or if youngest child is aged 14 and over). Jobseeker Support is available to people who can usually work full-time. It also includes people who can only work part-time or cannot look for work at the moment, for example because they have a health condition, injury or disability.
- **Sole Parent Support** – Replaced the Domestic Purposes Benefit (Sole Parent if youngest child is aged under 14) and the Widow's Benefit (if youngest child is aged under 14). Sole Parent Support is available to sole parents caring for children under the age of 14 who are available for or are ready to prepare for part-time work.
- **Supported Living Payment** – Replaced the Invalid's Benefit and Domestic Purposes Benefit (Caring for Sick or Infirm). The Supported Living Payments is available to people who are severely restricted or unable to work on a long-term basis because of a health condition or disability, and for people who are caring for someone who needs significant care.

For the purpose of your request, please find below estimates of the number of clients receiving the new benefit categories as at the end of the June 2013 quarter. These estimates are based on the benefit received and other characteristics recorded for the client.

Site	Jobseeker Support	Sole Parent Support	Supported Living	Other Main Benefit	Total
Greerton	1,243	1,068	658	41	3,010
Kawerau	858	445	267	6	1,576
Mount Maunganui	1,271	876	605	52	2,804
Opotiki	354	352	229	50	985
Rotorua	3,377	2,693	1,438	169	7,677
Taupo	736	694	524	27	1,981
Tauranga	1,712	1,094	1,076	57	3,939
Te Puke	449	399	266	66	1,180
Tokoroa	1,335	760	610	29	2,734
Whakatane	1,182	764	565	61	2,572
Total	12,517	9,145	6,238	558	28,458

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.

As you have been previously advised, you can find current data about these service centres and benefit types on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html.

You can also find information about the changes to the benefit types and obligations brought in by the July 2013 Welfare Reform changes at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/benefit-factsheet-changes-2013.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 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 benefit statistics for the June 2013 quarter with us, please feel free to contact: OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with the 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.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services