



20 FEB 2018



Dear 

On 9 January 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

[...]I would like to know the statistics/numbers for the following areas:

- 1. Number of Youth (18 to 25) who are receiving the Job Seeker Benefit in Canterbury*
- 2. Number of Youth (18 and under) who are receiving the YP in Canterbury*
- 3. Number of Youth who are receiving the YPP in Canterbury*
- 4. And if you have any details about any other supports that are offered through WINZ that are not financial for those who are on the payments above, and how successful the outcomes have been (ie: those who were receiving payments for less than 1 year, how many have entered into the workforce or education/training).*

If you could also attach ethnicity statistics to these that would be fabulous as well.

The Youth Service aims to help youth who are at risk of long-term benefit receipt by supporting them to achieve qualifications and independence. The service is compulsory for people aged 16-18 who are receiving a youth benefit; either the Youth Payment (YP) or Young Parent Payment (YPP). The service is available on a voluntary basis for young people aged 16-17 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), or who are at risk of becoming NEET. Young people receive support to further their education and training by enrolling with approved service providers. These community-based providers give guidance, support and encouragement to young people to help them find appropriate education, training or work-based learning to give them the skills to get a job and live independently. Further information about youth services can be found at: www.youthservice.govt.nz/.

Another support offered through Work and Income aimed at youth is the Limited Service Volunteers (LSV) training course. LSV is a six week motivational training course run by the New Zealand Defence Force. The aim of the LSV program is to increase the number of young job seekers entering employment or training by improving their self-discipline, self-confidence, motivation and initiative. LSV is for youth between the ages of 17 and 25, in receipt of a benefit. LSV will consider applications from 17 year old clients on a case by case basis.

Please find enclosed four tables:

- Table one shows the number of youth (18 to 25) in receipt of Jobseeker Support in Canterbury as at 30 September 2017, broken down by ethnicity.

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- Table two shows the number of 18 to 25 year olds who have stopped receiving Jobseeker Support between July 2017 and September 2017, broken down by benefit exit reason.

I can advise that as at 30 September 2017, of the 808 youth who had exited Jobseeker Support between July 2017 and September 2017, 530 youth have remained off this benefit for at least three months.

- Table three shows the number of Youth (18 and under) in receipt of a Youth Payment and Young Parent Payments in Canterbury, broken down by ethnicity as at the end of September 2017.
- Table four shows the number of LSV who completed the six week programme during 2016/17. Of the 292 youth who completed the six week programme, 60 participants were referred from the Canterbury region.

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 Youth Payments and Young Parent Payments, 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



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table One: Number of youth (18 to 25) in receipt of Jobseeker Support in Canterbury as at 30 September 2017, broken down by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Total
Māori	558
NZ European	1,186
Pacific Island	242
Other	81
Unspecified	200
Total	2267

Table Two: Exit reasons for youth (18 to 25) recipients of Jobseeker Support in Canterbury who came off the benefit between July 2017 and September 2017.

Exit Reason	Total
Change in Marital Status	20
Excess Income/Assets	27
In Prison	20
Left New Zealand	S
Non-Payment > 8 Weeks	S
Non-Renewal of Declaration/Renewal	34
Obtained Work	416
Other	206
Transferred to Another Benefit	70
Total	808

Notes (Tables One and Two):

- The information in tables one and two report on a non-standard age range of 18-25 years. Youth are defined and normally reported as 18-24 years.
- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct these tables strictly aligns with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded in the Ministry's systems have been gathered under a variety of classification schemes as clients each come into contact with the Ministry.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect client's privacy.
- Unspecified captures those young people who have not disclosed their ethnicity.

Table Three: Number of youth (18 and under) in receipt of a Youth Payment or a Young Parent Payment in Canterbury, broken down by ethnicity as at the end of September 2017.

	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Island	Unspecified	Total
Youth Payments	72	83	17	S	S	191
Young Parent Payments	47	60	S	S	13	134

Notes:

- Unspecified captures those young people who have not disclosed their ethnicity.

Table Four: Limited Service Volunteers (LSV) Outcomes as at November 2017.

Age (at referral)				Gender		Total
17yrs	18-19yrs	20-24yrs	25- 29yrs	Male	Female	
17	128	145	2	194	98	292