



9 JUL 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 30 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many people apply for the Residential Care Subsidy for the first time each year?*
- *Of those who apply for the first time, how many people are granted the subsidy?*
- *How many people, who are first time applicants, are declined?*
- *How many people, who are first time applicants, are declined based on the asset test?*
- *How many people re-apply for the Residential Care Subsidy each year after being previously declined?*
- *Of those who re-apply, how many are granted the subsidy?*
- *How many people are declined when re-applying?*
- *How many people are declined when re-applying based on the asset test?*

People who need long-term residential care in a hospital or rest home, may be able to get a Residential Care Subsidy from the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) administers Residential Care Subsidy including income and asset testing people who apply, but Residential Care Subsidy is funded by the Ministry of Health. Further information long-term residential care is available from the Ministry of Health's website here: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/life-stages/health-older-people/long-term-residential-care.

Please find below two tables that address your questions. As you were advised by a Ministry official, due to limitations in reporting, the Ministry has determined 'first time application' and 're-application after previously being declined' based on events that occurred in the five years prior to the period being reported.

Number of Residential Care Subsidy applications from people who had not made an application in five years preceding the reported financial years, broken down by outcome of the application, for the 2014/15, 2015/16, and 2016/17 financial years.

Financial year	Total applications	Applications granted	Applications declined	Declines broken down by reason	
				Excess Income/Assets	Other
2014/15	7,438	5,386	2,052	1,048	1,004
2015/16	7,770	5,694	2,076	943	1,133
2016/17	7,612	5,596	2,016	973	1,043

Notes:

- Applications counted are the first application in the fiscal year where there has been no application in the five fiscal years prior.
- If an application is declined and then granted on the same day, then only the 'grant' action is counted.

Number of reapplications for Residential Care Subsidy following a 'decline' in the five years prior to the reported financial years, broken down by outcome of the application, for the 2014/15, 2015/16, and 2016/17 financial years.

Financial year	Total reapplications	Reapplications granted	Reapplications declined	Declines broken down by reason	
				Excess Income/Assets	Other
2014/15	1,245	1,062	183	119	64
2015/16	1,327	1,095	232	138	94
2016/17	1,306	1,064	242	160	82

Notes:

- Replications counted are clients whose most recent prior application was a 'declined' application, and was in the five years prior to the reapplication.
- If a client had a grant after a decline in the five years prior to the reported year, then a reapplication, it is not considered as a reapplication following a decline.
- The 'decline' is the last decline prior to the reapplication. Only the reapplication following the last 'decline' is counted.
- If there is a 'decline' and a 'grant' on the same day, then the 'grant' action is counted.

The reason of 'Other' for decline of an application may include:

- Client has died
- application has been withdrawn by applicant
- insufficient information provided in application prior to manual lapse date

There are a variety of reasons why a person who has previously had an application for Residential Care Subsidy declined would then have a subsequent application granted. For instance, if the applicant's funds drop below the asset threshold an application that was previously declined would then be granted. Further information regarding Residential Care Subsidy, including information about eligibility and the asset threshold and income assessment is available from the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/residential-care-subsidy.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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Residential Care Subsidy, 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'D Dickinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dwina Dickinson
Group General Manager Client Service Support