



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

7 JUN 2018



Dear 

On 19 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

Could I please request the following information for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 financial year ending in June?

- *The number of children assisted by a Child Disability Allowance (and a breakdown of whether the caregivers were on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*
- *The number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was granted (and a breakdown of whether the caregivers were on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*
- *The number of people for whom a Disability Allowance was granted (and a breakdown of whether the person, or caregivers, were on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*

Enclosed are three tables that respond to your request and the Ministry's previous response to you, dated 15 February 2016, for your reference.

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.

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If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Child Disability Allowance and the Disability Allowance, 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 'C. Wise', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Table One: Number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was paid as at the end of June 2016 and 2017, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver.

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Superannuation/Veteran's Pension	Other	No Benefit	Total
June 2016	11,306	375	4,261	19,163	35,105
June 2017	11,458	391	4,450	19,636	35,935

Table Two: Number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was granted between the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver.

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Superannuation/Veteran's Pension	Other	No Benefit	Total
2015/2016	3,828	69	3,213	1,159	8,269
2016/2017	3,945	58	3,336	1,172	8,511

Table Three: Number of Disability Allowance grants between the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17, broken down by recipient benefit type.

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Superannuation/Veteran's Pension	Other	Total
2015/2016	38,508	17,528	8,071	64,107
2016/2017	37,576	17,615	7,417	62,608

Notes:

- 'Main Benefits' include Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Emergency Benefit, Jobseeker Support, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship, Supported Living Payment, Sole Parent Support and Young Parent Payment.
- 'Other' includes non-beneficiaries, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit
- 'No Benefit' includes clients who do not receive a main benefit or non-beneficiary assistance, however manage payments for other persons in their care.
- Recipients of the Disability Allowance can receive a main benefit or non-beneficiary assistance.



15 FEB 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

On 2 December 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of children assisted by a Child Disability Allowance for the 2014/2015 years (and a breakdown of whether the caregivers were on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*
- *The number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was granted for the 2014/2015 years (and a breakdown of whether the caregivers were on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*
- *The number of people for whom a Disability Allowance was granted for the 2014/2015 years (and a breakdown of whether the person, or caregiver, was on main benefits, superannuation or neither).*
- *The ethnicity breakdown, the continuous duration and age group of the Supported Living Payment for carers and the former Domestic Purpose Benefit – care of sick and infirm from 2000 to 2015 (just the data from June of each year would be great).*
- *If possible, the age of the person being supported by the caregiver under a Supported Living Payment for carers/former Domestic Purpose Benefit – care of sick and infirm from 2000 to 2015 (if that data is collected).*
- *Reasons for leaving the Supported Living Payment for carers/former Domestic Purpose Benefit – care of sick and infirm from 2000 to 2015.*
- *The benefit transferred from for Supported Living Payment for carers/former Domestic Purpose Benefit – care of sick and infirm from 2000 to 2015.*

Child Disability Allowance is a non-taxable allowance available to the primary caregiver of a child who is diagnosed with a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability. Child Disability Allowance is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested. It is usually paid to the primary carer in recognition of the extra care they provide to a child with a severe medical condition compared to that required for a child of a similar age who is not impaired. It is not related to any particular financial costs incurred in relation to the child's disability.

People may also be eligible to receive a Disability Allowance to meet any additional costs the dependent child may have due to their disability. Disability Allowance is an income tested, non-taxable form of financial assistance available to people and their dependent children who have on-going additional costs resulting from a disability.

A number of eligibility factors are considered when assessing a person's eligibility for these allowances and further details about criteria and payment are available on the Work and Income website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz.

As you will be aware, from 15 July 2013, New Zealand's welfare system changed. The Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick and Infirm benefit transitioned to the Supported Living Payment – Carer from this date.

Supported Living Payment – Carer is paid to an applicant who is caring full-time at home for a person (other than their spouse or partner) who, if they were not being cared for at home, would otherwise need hospital or similar care. Supported Living Payment – Carer cannot be paid to more than one carer for the same supported person.

More information about the Supported Living Payment – Carer, including eligibility criteria is available at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/caring-for-a-person-01.html.

You will find enclosed seven tables which provide the following information:

- 1 The number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was paid, as at the end of June 2014 and 2015, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver
- 2 The number of Child Disability Allowance grants in the financial years ending June 2014 and 2015, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver
- 3 The number of Disability Allowance grants in the financial years ending June 2014 and 2015, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver
- 4 The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2000 to 2015, broken down by ethnicity
- 5 The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2000 to 2015, broken down by age
- 6 The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2013 to 2015, broken down by continuous duration
- 7 The numbers of cancellations for beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment (Carer) and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm for the years ending June 2000 to 2015, broken down by cancellation reason.

You will note that the number of Disability Allowance grants has decreased between the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years. This is largely due to an overall decrease in the number of people receiving main benefits, notably Jobseeker Support and Sole parent Support. Following the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, there was an increase in the number of people coming onto benefit, which meant that the numbers of Disability Allowance also increased between the 2008/09 and the 2009/10 financial years. As the economy recovered, the number of beneficiaries has decreased, as has the number of people receiving Disability Allowance.

The Ministry is unable to breakdown the number of Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick and Infirm by continuous duration, prior to 2012/13 as this data is not held in a reportable format and as such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as it does not exist.

The Ministry is unable to report the age of the person being supported by the caregiver who is in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer, or Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick and Infirm. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as it does not exist in the manner you have requested.

The Ministry is unable to provide the benefit people in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer or Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick and Infirm transferred from. This information does not exist in a form that can be reported on and provided in the manner you have asked for. As such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

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



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table One: The number of children for whom a Child Disability Allowance was paid, as at the end of June 2014 and 2015, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Super/Veterans Pension	Other	Total
June 2014	11,640	307	22,554	34,501
June 2015	11,322	338	22,929	34,589

Table Two: The number of Child Disability Allowance grants in the financial years ending June 2014 and 2015, broken down by the benefit received by the caregiver

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Super/Veterans Pension	Other	Total
2013/14	3,079	52	3,753	6,884
2014/15	2,945	45	4,057	7,047

Table Three: The number of Disability Allowance grants in the financial years ending June 2014 and 2015, broken down by benefit type of the recipient

Financial Year	Main Benefit	New Zealand Super/Veterans Pension	Other	Total
2013/14	43,494	17,292	8,836	69,622
2014/15	38,602	16,568	7,994	63,164

Notes

Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, and Orphan's and Unsupported child's benefit.

NZS/VP is NZ Superannuation and Veteran's Pension.

'Other' includes clients receiving Orphan's and Unsupported child's benefit, Non beneficiary assistance and non-beneficiaries.

Child Disability Allowance is paid to the principal caregiver for a child with a serious disability.

A client may have had more than one grant in a period.

This table includes all ages.

Table Four: The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2000 to 2015, broken down by ethnicity

Benefit	Financial Year	Maori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Island	Unspecified	Total
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm	1999/00	772	922	110	259	336	2,399
	2000/01	870	1,033	120	350	344	2,717
	2001/02	1,062	1,148	212	443	71	2,936
	2002/03	1,161	1,211	309	519	46	3,246
	2003/04	1,293	1,290	347	568	66	3,564
	2004/05	1,366	1,387	380	593	78	3,804
	2005/06	1,557	1,389	401	728	93	4,168
	2006/07	1,772	1,470	436	741	96	4,515
	2007/08	1,987	1,732	549	883	136	5,287
	2008/09	2,248	1,989	619	1,047	154	6,057
	2009/10	2,436	2,185	672	1,208	156	6,657
	2010/11	2,725	2,323	747	1,321	168	7,284
	2011/12	2,876	2,399	825	1,431	155	7,686
2012/13	2,950	2,622	900	1,465	166	8,103	
Supported Living Payment – Carer	2013/14	3,143	2,793	955	1,509	165	8,565
	2014/15	3,250	2,760	970	1,502	171	8,653

Notes

This table includes all ages.

Table Five: The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2000 to 2015, broken down by age.

Benefit	Financial Year	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Total
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm	1999/00	55	134	168	178	261	287	411	439	325	141	2,399
	2000/01	62	151	164	197	284	347	441	483	380	208	2,717
	2001/02	79	160	184	217	323	369	449	490	424	241	2,936
	2002/03	76	179	209	231	362	438	482	538	467	264	3,246
	2003/04	90	181	224	271	358	490	525	553	568	304	3,564
	2004/05	91	211	247	271	350	495	572	608	616	343	3,804
	2005/06	107	265	239	299	405	569	661	645	590	388	4,168
	2006/07	114	298	270	326	422	633	710	704	583	455	4,515
	2007/08	146	346	341	383	541	709	859	783	660	519	5,287
	2008/09	162	418	413	443	651	814	959	868	749	580	6,057
	2009/10	162	492	466	516	692	887	1,057	962	806	617	6,657
	2010/11	151	566	493	564	689	998	1,146	1,130	903	644	7,284
	2011/12	136	524	507	575	751	1,034	1,218	1,218	982	741	7,686
	2012/13	98	499	528	561	749	1,113	1,281	1,389	1,085	800	8,103
2013/14	96	471	524	610	793	1,162	1,412	1,490	1,177	830	8,565	
Supported Living Payment – Carer	2014/15	88	465	539	621	788	1,143	1,420	1,497	1,256	836	8,653

Notes

This table includes all ages.

Table Six: The number of beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm, as at the end of June 2013 to 2015, broken down by continuous duration.

Benefit	Financial Year	< 3 months	3-6 months	6 mths-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	6-8 years	8-10 years	Over 10 years	Total
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm	2012/13	387	369	692	1,074	818	795	740	503	662	454	1,609	8,103
	2013/14	362	309	1,428	898	747	581	615	593	718	514	1,800	8,565
Supported Living Payment – Carer	2014/15	305	348	664	1,508	752	611	504	567	898	552	1,944	8,653

Notes

This table includes all ages.

Table Seven: The reasons for cancellation for beneficiaries in receipt of Supported Living Payment – Carer and Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm for the years ending June 2000 to 2015, broken down by cancellation reason.

Benefit	Financial Year	Other	Excess Income/Assets	Child Left Care/No Longer Dependent	Change in Marital Status	Died	Transferred to Another Benefit	Obtained Work	In Prison	Total
Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm	1999/00	352	10	S	32	7	582	112	S	1,105
	2000/01	428	19	6	32	9	690	123	7	1,314
	2001/02	552	22	6	42	13	806	130	8	1,579
	2002/03	530	26	6	40	11	785	151	12	1,561
	2003/04	705	35	S	47	10	804	211	S	1,822
	2004/05	878	51	17	38	9	819	266	20	2,098
	2005/06	841	38	9	31	12	798	271	18	2,018
	2006/07	912	40	11	47	16	800	297	18	2,141
	2007/08	916	57	13	72	19	845	352	27	2,301
	2008/09	1,067	48	21	84	16	1,081	321	28	2,666
	2009/10	1,027	56	26	64	28	1,135	330	32	2,698
	2010/11	1,028	71	26	64	26	1,213	357	27	2,812
	2011/12	1,142	80	38	78	28	1,288	398	28	3,080
	2012/13	1,267	80	29	79	24	1,322	396	38	3,235
2013/14	1,182	76	7	89	40	1,395	439	20	3,248	
Supported Living Payment – Carer	2014/15	1,132	89	17	102	30	1,444	430	22	3,266

Notes

Other includes, Left NZ, Non-Renewal of Declaration/Renewal, Non-Payment >8 Weeks, and Other.

This table includes all ages.

S represents a value where the value is suppressed to protect the identity of individuals.