



21 JUN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 19 April 2018 you emailed the Department of Internal Affairs requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The total and yearly sum that the government has spent on the Working For Families program since its creation*

This request was subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Social Development and the Inland Revenue Department. The Ministry can answer your request in relation to the provision of Accommodation Supplement and Childcare Assistance as they are administered by the Ministry of Social Development. Further information on Working for Families can be found on the Working for Families website: [www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz/](http://www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz/)

Details concerning the inclusion of Accommodation Supplement and Childcare Assistance in the Working for Families package can be found in the Cabinet paper "Reform of Social Assistance: Working for Families Package: Revised Recommendations" available here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/policy-development/working-for-families/cab-min--04--13-4.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/policy-development/working-for-families/cab-min--04--13-4.pdf)

Please find attached two tables. Table one provides the number of non-beneficiary clients with children receiving Accommodation Supplement as at the end of June from 2005 to 2017. Table two provides the number of non-beneficiary clients receiving Childcare Assistance (OSCAR/CCS) as at the end of June from 2005 to 2017.

Please note these tables only include clients not in receipt of a benefit as Working For Families assistance is targeted at working families with children i.e people not in receipt of a main benefit (Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support and Supported Living Payment). It is important to note that families receiving main benefits may be eligible to receive Family Tax Credit, Accommodation Supplement and OSCAR/CCS.

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.

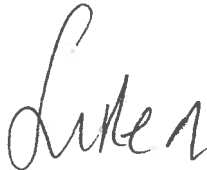
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This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Accommodation Supplement and Childcare Assistance, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Read', written in a cursive style.

Kay Read  
**Group General Manager, Client Service Delivery**

**Table 1: Non-beneficiary clients with children receiving Accommodation Supplement as at the end of June from 2005 to 2017.**

As at end of	Number of recipients	Total Weekly rate paid
June 2005	24,555	\$1,858,569
June 2006	31,110	\$2,443,145
June 2007	36,073	\$2,892,605
June 2008	37,002	\$3,071,982
June 2009	37,777	\$3,256,709
June 2010	37,925	\$3,305,509
June 2011	37,687	\$3,365,801
June 2012	37,075	\$3,347,246
June 2013	36,236	\$3,303,231
June 2014	37,182	\$3,438,829
June 2015	38,599	\$3,595,855
June 2016	38,230	\$3,686,031
June 2017	37,637	\$3,583,989

**Table 2: Non-beneficiary clients receiving Childcare Assistance (OSCAR/CCS) as at the end of June from 2005 to 2017.**

As at end of	Number of recipients	Total Weekly rate paid
June 2005	19,819	\$1,000,985
June 2006	25,197	\$1,399,543
June 2007	32,833	\$2,089,691
June 2008	32,163	\$2,115,687
June 2009	34,677	\$2,288,779
June 2010	37,735	\$2,483,891
June 2011	36,351	\$2,469,522
June 2012	36,231	\$2,480,842
June 2013	34,911	\$2,378,470
June 2014	34,799	\$2,397,579
June 2015	33,435	\$2,292,118
June 2016	30,994	\$2,333,517
June 2017	31,019	\$2,447,812

**Notes:**

- Childcare Assistance includes Childcare Subsidy paid for Early Childcare Education and After School Care (OSCAR)
- Childcare Assistance is seasonal and the number of recipients can drop at other times of the year. June is a snapshot when most recipients in the year will receive a payment.