



15 OCT 2018



Dear 

On 17 September 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of Disability Allowances granted to individuals under 18 years of age (so the individual under 18 years is the disabled person who qualifies for the Disability Allowance).*
- *Data on the crossover between the Child Disability Allowance and the Disability Allowance (e.g. how many disabled children/young people under 18 receive both).*
- *Data on the average, or median, amount paid for disabled children/young people under 18 in receipt of the Disability Allowance.*
- *This data is requested for the period 2013 to the most recent quarter.*

Attached to this letter are six tables of data which address your request:

1. The total number of Disability Allowances granted on behalf of children 17 or under for each quarter during the specified period.
2. The total number of current Disability Allowances paid for children 17 or under, clients and partners as at the end of each quarter for the specified period showing the average and median rate of payment.
3. The total number of Disability Allowances paid for a client or their partner whose age is 17 years or younger as at the end of each quarter during the specified period. **Please note** this differs from your previous request, where partners were not included in the data.
4. The number of current Child Disability Allowances paid for children as at the end of each quarter during the specified period showing the average and median weekly rate.
5. The number of children receiving both the Child Disability Allowance and Disability Allowance at the end of each quarter during the specified period.

For context, we are also providing the numbers of clients of all ages who are receiving the Disability Allowance in table six.

You will notice from the data in these tables that the number of Disability Allowances granted for persons under 18 years old has decreased between 2013 and 2018. The expansion of health services for children, including free General Practitioner visits for children under 13 since July 2015, is likely to be part of the reason for this decrease.

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 and attachments 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 the Child Disability Allowance and 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Cassandra Wise  
**Team Manager, Issues Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: The total number of Disability Allowances granted on behalf of children 17 and under during each quarter.**

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Total Granted</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	1,213
<b>June 2013</b>	1,236
<b>September 2013</b>	1,371
<b>December 2013</b>	1,321
<b>March 2014</b>	1,209
<b>June 2014</b>	1,264
<b>September 2014</b>	1,380
<b>December 2014</b>	1,186
<b>March 2015</b>	1,066
<b>June 2015</b>	1,043
<b>September 2015</b>	1,063
<b>December 2015</b>	1,090
<b>March 2016</b>	822
<b>June 2016</b>	823
<b>September 2016</b>	876
<b>December 2016</b>	993
<b>March 2017</b>	790
<b>June 2017</b>	761
<b>September 2017</b>	755
<b>December 2017</b>	908
<b>March 2018</b>	690
<b>June 2018</b>	653

**Note:**

- This is the total number of Disability Allowances granted, not a total number of children.
- A child may be counted more than once in any given period.

**Table two: The total number of current Disability Allowances paid for children 17 and under, clients and partners as at the end of each quarter for the period March 2013 to June 2018 showing the average and median rate of payment.**

Quarter ending	Number of children receiving Disability Allowance	Average weekly rate	Median weekly rate
March 2013	9,378	\$19.65	\$11.40
June 2013	9,256	\$19.62	\$11.20
September 2013	9,118	\$19.67	\$11.30
December 2013	8,878	\$19.69	\$11.20
March 2014	8,599	\$19.74	\$11.25
June 2014	8,535	\$19.81	\$11.15
September 2014	8,535	\$19.70	\$11.00
December 2014	8,242	\$19.77	\$11.15
March 2015	8,080	\$19.66	\$10.95
June 2015	8,068	\$19.53	\$10.80
September 2015	7,927	\$19.83	\$11.00
December 2015	7,462	\$20.20	\$11.55
March 2016	7,237	\$20.27	\$11.55
June 2016	7,033	\$20.61	\$12.00
September 2016	6,888	\$20.92	\$12.20
December 2016	6,518	\$21.37	\$12.85
March 2017	6,205	\$21.74	\$13.05
June 2017	6,093	\$22.04	\$13.80
September 2017	5,963	\$22.43	\$14.00
December 2017	5,837	\$22.89	\$14.30
March 2018	5,460	\$23.29	\$14.95
June 2018	5,414	\$23.74	\$15.50

**Note:**

- This is the number of clients under 17 receiving the receiving Disability Allowance.

**Table three: The total number of Disability Allowances paid for a client or their partner whose age is 17 years or younger as at the end of each quarter.**

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Number of clients or partners aged under 17 receiving DA</b>	<b>Average weekly rate</b>	<b>Median weekly rate</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	435	\$12.99	\$4.05
<b>June 2013</b>	439	\$12.89	\$4.15
<b>September 2013</b>	390	\$13.39	\$4.50
<b>December 2013</b>	388	\$13.29	\$4.50
<b>March 2014</b>	381	\$14.20	\$5.05
<b>June 2014</b>	362	\$14.68	\$5.40
<b>September 2014</b>	356	\$14.82	\$4.98
<b>December 2014</b>	363	\$13.77	\$4.75
<b>March 2015</b>	337	\$13.44	\$4.80
<b>June 2015</b>	321	\$13.50	\$4.85
<b>September 2015</b>	321	\$12.82	\$4.75
<b>December 2015</b>	336	\$11.46	\$4.10
<b>March 2016</b>	305	\$11.49	\$4.05
<b>June 2016</b>	329	\$12.52	\$4.70
<b>September 2016</b>	306	\$13.01	\$4.95
<b>December 2016</b>	325	\$13.12	\$4.90
<b>March 2017</b>	327	\$13.47	\$4.90
<b>June 2017</b>	306	\$13.70	\$5.33
<b>September 2017</b>	288	\$13.99	\$4.73
<b>December 2017</b>	269	\$13.66	\$5.00
<b>March 2018</b>	287	\$12.66	\$5.10
<b>June 2018</b>	295	\$11.48	\$4.20

**Note:**

- This differs from figures provided in your previous request due to the addition of partners.

**Table four: The number of current Child Disability Allowances paid for children as at the end of each quarter.**

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Number of children receiving Child Disability Allowance</b>
March 2013	35,127
June 2013	34,968
September 2013	34,673
December 2013	34,495
March 2014	34,230
June 2014	34,501
September 2014	34,620
December 2014	34,717
March 2015	34,484
June 2015	34,589
September 2015	34,820
December 2015	34,720
March 2016	34,742
June 2016	35,105
September 2016	35,545
December 2016	35,780
March 2017	35,707
June 2017	35,935
September 2017	36,557
December 2017	37,001
March 2018	36,847
June 2018	37,095

**Note:**

- The Child Disability Allowance is paid to the principal caregiver for a child with a serious disability and who needs constant care and attention.
- The Child Disability Allowance is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested.
- The current amount for the Child Disability allowance can be found on the Ministry's website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/child-disability-allowance.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/child-disability-allowance.html#null)

**Table five: The number of children receiving both the Child Disability Allowance and Disability Allowance.**

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Number of children receiving Child Disability Allowance and Disability Allowance</b>	<b>Average weekly rate</b>	<b>Median weekly rate</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	4,710	\$67.96	\$60.12
<b>June 2013</b>	4,689	\$67.92	\$59.62
<b>September 2013</b>	4,539	\$67.95	\$59.72
<b>December 2013</b>	4,442	\$68.04	\$59.72
<b>March 2014</b>	4,333	\$68.72	\$60.45
<b>June 2014</b>	4,332	\$68.64	\$60.08
<b>September 2014</b>	4,298	\$68.48	\$59.78
<b>December 2014</b>	4,209	\$68.44	\$59.80
<b>March 2015</b>	4,145	\$68.27	\$59.44
<b>June 2015</b>	4,187	\$68.03	\$59.04
<b>September 2015</b>	4,146	\$68.18	\$59.34
<b>December 2015</b>	4,021	\$68.39	\$59.59
<b>March 2016</b>	3,906	\$68.47	\$59.69
<b>June 2016</b>	3,811	\$68.77	\$60.04
<b>September 2016</b>	3,761	\$69.24	\$60.49
<b>December 2016</b>	3,646	\$69.55	\$61.04
<b>March 2017</b>	3,519	\$70.46	\$62.00
<b>June 2017</b>	3,470	\$70.69	\$62.48
<b>September 2017</b>	3,431	\$70.89	\$62.55
<b>December 2017</b>	3,410	\$71.35	\$63.00
<b>March 2018</b>	3,224	\$72.28	\$64.09
<b>June 2018</b>	3,209	\$72.61	\$64.84

**Table six: Total number of clients of all ages receiving the Disability Allowance.**

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Number of clients and partners of all ages (all adults) receiving Disability Allowance</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	233,294
<b>June 2013</b>	234,048
<b>September 2013</b>	232,845
<b>December 2013</b>	232,587
<b>March 2014</b>	232,255
<b>June 2014</b>	232,033
<b>September 2014</b>	232,751
<b>December 2014</b>	232,502
<b>March 2015</b>	231,757
<b>June 2015</b>	232,353
<b>September 2015</b>	231,766
<b>December 2015</b>	232,411
<b>March 2016</b>	229,891
<b>June 2016</b>	229,570
<b>September 2016</b>	230,245
<b>December 2016</b>	230,493
<b>March 2017</b>	228,953
<b>June 2017</b>	228,399
<b>September 2017</b>	227,254
<b>December 2017</b>	228,256
<b>March 2018</b>	226,783
<b>June 2018</b>	227,501