



25 JUL 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 29 June 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *The number of single Superannuitants in NZ receiving the single super without supplements.*
2. *The number of single Superannuitants in each region in NZ.*

The Ministry works with people to ensure they are receiving their full and correct entitlement. There is a range of support available to people depending on their circumstances.

A number of eligibility factors are considered when assessing a person's eligibility for assistance. The online eligibility guide, launched in July 2018 helps individuals identify the types of assistance, including supplementary assistance they may qualify for, then choose if they want to apply. This guide can be found on the Work and Income website here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/eligibility/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/eligibility/index.html).

More information about the types of assistance available to pensioners including New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) and Veterans Pension (VP) is available at the following website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/index.html).

As at 31 March 2019 there were 184,961 people receiving the single rate of NZS and not receiving supplementary assistance. This includes, but is not limited to all types of weekly supplementary assistance; Accommodation Supplement, Disability Allowance, Residential Care Subsidy and Temporary Additional Support.

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

- Table One which shows the number of people receiving the single rate of NZS as at 31 March 2019 broken down by living situation.
- Table Two which shows the number of people receiving the single rate of NZS as at 31 March 2019 broken down by 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 regarding figures around the number of people receiving the single rate of NZS 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, 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 'CP B...', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Cassandra Wise  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: The number of people receiving the single rate of NZS as at 31 March 2019 broken down by living situation.**

<b>Living situation</b>	<b>Number of clients</b>
Single Living Alone	194,712
Single hospital rate	30
Single Sharing	103,614
<b>Total</b>	<b>298,356</b>

**Table Two: The number of people receiving the single rate of NZS as at 31 March 2019 broken down by region.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of people receiving single NZS rate</b>
Northland	12,461
Auckland Metro	73,128
Waikato	21,075
Taranaki	15,533
Bay of Plenty	24,261
East Coast	14,929
Central	20,263
Wellington	20,537
Nelson	13,526
Canterbury	31,613
Southern	24,835
Other	26,195
<b>Total</b>	<b>298,356</b>

**Notes:**

- The 'Other' region includes clients managed from non-regional service centres such as Specialised Processing Services Wellington.