



14 JUN 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 20 May 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Does the Ministry have data on the gender or sex of the children/young people receiving the Child Disability Allowance? (Not the caregiver's gender or sex, the child/young person's gender or sex.)*
- *If so could I request the gender or sex breakdown of children/young people receiving the Child Disability Allowance from 2000/1 to 2017/18? (Just the data from June of each year would be great.)*
- *Also, has the Ministry carried out any reviews or policy work on the Child Disability Allowance in the time period January 2017 to present? I am not requesting the content of those reviews/work at this stage, just confirmation of whether any have occurred.*

The Ministry does capture the gender of children for when the Child Disability Allowance is paid. Due to the evolving nature of clients' situations, the Ministry reports data at a point in time. The breakdown of data is recorded as at June 30 each year and is provided in the enclosed table.

Some of the figures prior to 2010 report the gender as unspecified. 'Unspecified gender' is when the child's gender is no longer held in the Ministry's reporting system. For example, when a child turns 19 and is no longer a dependant child. I am unable to provide you with the breakdown of the unspecified gender category as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would have to manually review all 16,824 case files. As such, I refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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The Ministry can confirm that reviews and policy work have taken place since January 2017 in regards to the Child Disability Allowance.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response about the Child 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



Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Child Disability Allowance broken down by child's gender as at 30 June for each year requested

| Year | Gender (Child) | | | Total |
|------|----------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| | Unspecified | Female | Male | |
| 2000 | 3,435 | 6,409 | 11,020 | 20,864 |
| 2001 | 3,036 | 6,845 | 11,843 | 21,724 |
| 2002 | 2,805 | 7,590 | 13,353 | 23,748 |
| 2003 | 2,506 | 9,123 | 15,713 | 27,342 |
| 2004 | 2,047 | 10,911 | 18,513 | 31,471 |
| 2005 | 1,413 | 11,862 | 19,775 | 33,050 |
| 2006 | 914 | 13,370 | 21,923 | 36,207 |
| 2007 | 490 | 14,809 | 23,846 | 39,145 |
| 2008 | 149 | 16,560 | 26,476 | 43,185 |
| 2009 | 29 | 17,767 | 27,971 | 45,767 |
| 2010 | . | 16,821 | 27,062 | 43,883 |
| 2011 | . | 14,915 | 24,338 | 39,253 |
| 2012 | . | 13,965 | 22,929 | 36,894 |
| 2013 | . | 13,300 | 21,668 | 34,968 |
| 2014 | . | 13,050 | 21,451 | 34,501 |
| 2015 | . | 12,965 | 21,624 | 34,589 |
| 2016 | . | 13,079 | 22,026 | 35,105 |
| 2017 | . | 13,235 | 22,700 | 35,935 |
| 2018 | . | 13,629 | 23,466 | 37,095 |