



10 AUG 2020

Tēnā koe

On 17 July 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

Unemployment statistics for people over 50 by region, if possible, gender specific and whether there has been an increase in numbers since mid-March?

As discussed with one of the Ministerial and Executive Services Advisors on 31 July 2020, the Ministry is able to provide you with statistics on the number of people in receipt of a Jobseeker Support benefit who are over 50 years of age.

To get Jobseeker support, you generally need to:

- not be in full-time employment
- be available for and seeking full-time employment, or;
- have a health condition or disability that affects your ability to work and which means that you must reduce your hours or stop work for a while

More information about Jobseeker Support can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/index.html.

Please note that clients who are 65 years of age or older are usually eligible to receive New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension. However, if a client does not meet the residency qualifications, or any of the other eligibility criteria, for NZ Super or Veteran's Pension, he or she may still be entitled to a main benefit, including Jobseeker Support.

Please find attached an Excel spreadsheet, with Table One showing the number of Jobseeker benefit recipients over 50 years of age as at the end of each quarter from March 2019 to June 2020, broken down by gender and Work and Income Region.

In addition to this, you might also be interested in the income support and wage subsidy weekly updates, which are publicly available on our website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/reporting-archive.html.

If you would like further information on New Zealand's total unemployment statistics, I would suggest contacting Statistics New Zealand at: info@statistics.govt.nz.

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. 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 regarding unemployment statistics for those aged 50 and over, 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



Bridget Saunders
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