



25 FEB 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 8 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *At 31 December 2019 how many children (aged 0-17) were dependent on a caregiver in receipt of a main benefit, unsupported child benefit or young parent payment?*
 - i) *Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity of caregiver and age of child.*
2. *At 31 December 2017 how many children (aged 0-17) were dependent on a caregiver in receipt of a main benefit, unsupported child benefit or young parent payment?*
 - ii) *Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity of caregiver and age of child.*
3. *How many working age caregivers added a child aged under one year to a main benefit in the year ending 31 December 2019.*
 - iii) *Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity, age and gender of caregiver.*

On 27 January 2020, you contacted the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *At 31 December 2019 how many Jobseeker Support recipients were working part-time or full-time?*
 - i) *Please provide an ethnic breakdown of those Jobseekers who had a health condition and disability at 31 December 2019*

The Ministry offers several main benefits to people who need financial support and fit the eligibility criteria. The type of main benefit a person may receive is dependent on their circumstances. Information about the types of benefits available and what type of benefit is suitable to a person's circumstance is available on the following web-link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/index.html.

You are provided with 16 tables that address your request. Please note the following:

- In order to protect client privacy, you will notice that some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

Your questions are answered in turn:

1. *At 31 December 2019 how many children (aged 0-17) were dependent on a caregiver in receipt of a main benefit, unsupported child benefit or young parent payment?*
 - i) *Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity of caregiver and age of child.*

Please find attached Tables One to Six:

- Table One provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children as at the end of December 2019, broken down by main benefit type.
- Table Two provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children as at the end of December 2019, broken down by client ethnicity.
- Table Three provides the number of children included in a caregiver's working age main benefit as at end of December 2019, broken down by main benefit type and the age of the child.
- Table Four provides the number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by the age of the children.
- Table Five provides the number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit and the Unsupported Child's Benefit, broken down by the caregiver's ethnicity.
- Table Six provides the number of caregivers of children in receipt of a Young Person or Young Parent Payment benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by the caregiver's ethnicity and the age of their youngest dependent child.

2. *At 31 December 2017 how many children (aged 0-17) were dependent on a caregiver in receipt of a main benefit, unsupported child benefit or young parent payment?*
 - ii) *Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity of caregiver and age of child.*

Please find attached Tables Seven to 12:

- Table Seven provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children as at the end of December 2017, broken down by the main benefit type.

- Table Eight provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children as at the end of December 2017, broken down by the caregiver's ethnicity.
 - Table Nine provides the number of children included in a caregiver's working age main benefit as at end of December 2017, broken down by main benefit type and the age of the child.
 - Table 10 provides the number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by the children's age.
 - Table 11 provides the number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit and the Unsupported Child's Benefit, broken down by caregiver ethnicity.
 - Table 12 provides the number of Young Person and Young Parent Payment recipient caregivers of children as at the end of December 2017, broken down by caregiver ethnicity and the youngest dependent child's age.
3. *How many working age caregivers added a child aged under one year to a main benefit in the year ending 31 December 2019.*
- iii) Please provide a breakdown of this data by benefit, ethnicity, age and gender of caregiver.*

Please find attached Table 13 to 15:

- Table 13 provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children with a subsequent child included as at the end of December 2019, by benefit type and caregiver age.
 - Table 14 provides the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children with subsequent children included as at the end of December 2019, by benefit type and ethnicity.
 - Table 15 the number of working age main benefit recipient caregivers of children with a subsequent child added in the 2019 calendar year, broken down by benefit type and caregiver gender.
4. *At 31 December 2019 how many Jobseeker Support recipients were working part-time or full-time?*
- ii) Please provide an ethnic breakdown of those Jobseekers who had a health condition and disability at 31 December 2019*

Please find attached Table 16. Table 16 provides the number of Current Jobseeker Support recipients as at the end of December 2019, by earning status, health and disability status and ethnicity.

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, 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
Team Manager, Service Delivery Issue Resolution

Table One: Number of caregivers of children in receipt of a working age benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by main benefit type.

Benefit group	Total
Emergency benefit	417
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	713
Jobseeker Support	23,494
Jobseeker Student Hardship	1,904
Supported Living Payment	10,432
Sole Parent Support	61,141
Total	98,101

Notes:

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran’s Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.

Table Two: Number of caregivers of children in receipt of a working age benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by the caregivers’ ethnic group.

Benefit group	Caregiver ethnic group					Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
Emergency Benefit	128	50	63	96	80	417
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	281	134	27	167	104	713
Jobseeker Support	10,343	2,904	5,643	3,936	668	23,494
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	803	158	382	550	11	1,904
Supported Living Payment	3,774	1,275	3,905	1,312	166	10,432
Sole Parent Support	29,142	6,644	17,454	6,232	1,669	61,141
Total	44,471	11,165	27,474	12,293	2,698	98,101

Notes:

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran’s Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.

Table Three: Number of children included in a caregiver's working age main benefits as at end of December 2019, broken down by the age of the child.

Benefit group	Child age																		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emergency Benefit	52	63	47	37	45	46	41	53	37	55	37	41	39	34	39	35	39	35	15
Emergency Maintenance Assistance	54	64	72	83	82	79	65	91	71	84	79	77	74	65	53	38	37	18	13
Jobseeker Support	2,645	2,502	2,448	2,240	1,944	1,992	1,936	1,782	1,604	1,607	1,586	1,499	1,512	1,493	3,532	3,579	3,233	2,909	1,827
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	70	110	169	232	244	274	257	295	240	244	206	201	185	174	150	128	124	112	44
Supported Living Payment	364	459	560	588	635	762	841	937	982	1,091	1,119	1,240	1,266	1,290	1,316	1,397	1,339	1,196	695
Sole Parent Support	6,782	8,334	8,607	8,687	8,539	8,288	8,079	8,504	8,172	8,025	7,709	7,333	6,905	6,141	3,282	2,867	2,002	1,441	838
Total	9,967	11,532	11,903	11,867	11,489	11,441	11,219	11,662	11,106	11,106	10,736	10,391	9,981	9,197	8,372	8,044	6,774	5,711	3,432

Notes:

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Table Four: Number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by age of the child.

Benefit group	Child age																		Total	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18
Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit	155	341	527	729	865	955	1,127	1,221	1,246	1,325	1,332	1,387	1,338	1,346	1,327	1,346	1,115	814	438	18,934

Notes:

- Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's benefit provides an additional income to the caregiver of a child whose parents cannot support them. It can be paid to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- Clients receiving a main benefit (for example: Jobseeker Support) and the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit, will also be included in the above tables.

Table Five: Number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefits as at the end of December 2019, broken down by the caregiver's ethnic group.

Benefit group	Caregiver ethnic group					Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit	10,183	1,322	5,592	962	875	18,934

Table Six: Number of Caregivers in receipt of a Young Parent Payment benefits as at the end of December 2019, broken down by the caregiver's ethnicity and the age of the youngest child

Caregiver ethnicity	Age of youngest child										Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	15	16	
Māori	395	224	118	38	14	S	S	S	0	0	795
Pacific Peoples	87	51	15	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	162
NZ European	149	79	45	5	S	0	0	0	0	0	282
Other	25	11	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	41
Unspecified	104	98	37	7	S	0	0	0	S	0	251
Total	760	463	219	55	26	S	S	S	S	S	1,531

Table Seven: Number of caregivers of children in receipt of a working age main benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by benefit type.

Benefit group	Total
Emergency Benefit	401
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	796
Jobseeker Support	19,523
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	1,997
Supported Living Payment	10,864
Sole Parent Support	60,614
Total	94,195

Notes:

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran’s Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.

Table Eight: Number of caregivers on a working age benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by benefit type and the ethnicity of the caregiver.

Benefit group	Caregiver ethnic group					Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
Emergency Benefit	135	49	65	104	48	401
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	357	126	44	195	74	796
Jobseeker Support	8,331	2,275	5,015	3,541	361	19,523
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	927	150	422	489	9	1,997
Supported Living Payment	3,885	1,427	4,040	1,346	166	10,864
Sole Parent Support	29,010	6,334	18,000	6,031	1,239	60,614
Total	42,645	10,361	27,586	11,706	1,897	94,195

Notes:

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran’s Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.

Table Nine: Number of children included in a caregiver's working age main benefits as at the end of December 2017, broken down by benefit group and the age of the children

Benefit group	Child's Age																		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emergency Benefit	43	55	32	50	41	51	43	45	40	57	47	40	41	41	37	47	32	34	22
Emergency Maintenance Assistance	43	78	91	96	83	102	94	107	93	96	90	76	72	58	55	41	30	8	9
Jobseeker Support	2,029	1,965	1,647	1,708	1,633	1,528	1,386	1,428	1,314	1,328	1,254	1,250	1,161	1,315	3,092	3,069	2,894	2,643	1,507
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	65	136	156	232	272	281	280	241	268	249	232	201	185	160	144	175	164	126	55
Supported Living Payment	406	464	521	640	708	799	877	982	1,039	1,132	1,216	1,167	1,221	1,228	1,430	1,434	1,377	1,242	871
Sole Parent Support	6,763	8,652	9,066	8,634	8,576	9,059	8,550	8,350	7,867	7,573	7,038	6,406	5,839	5,527	3,040	2,742	1,944	1,521	832
Total	9,349	11,350	11,513	11,360	11,313	11,820	11,230	11,153	10,621	10,435	9,877	9,140	8,519	8,329	7,798	7,508	6,441	5,574	3,296

Notes

- Working age benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Table 10: Number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by the age of the children

Benefit types	Child's age																		Total	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18
Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit	108	325	481	632	792	912	956	1,043	1,073	1,111	1,129	1,133	1,082	1,067	1,086	1,086	939	747	389	16,091

Notes:

- Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's benefit provides an additional income to the caregiver of a child whose parents cannot support them. It can be paid to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- Clients receiving a main benefit (for example: Jobseeker Support) and the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit, will also be included in the above tables.

Table 11: Number of children included in a caregiver's Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by caregiver ethnic group

Benefit group	Ethnicity of the caregiver					Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit	8,273	1,178	5,080	860	700	16,091

Table 12: Number of caregivers in receipt of a Young Parent Payment Benefit as at the end of December 2017, broken down by the age of the youngest child and ethnicity of the caregiver

Ethnicity of caregiver	Age of youngest child											Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	11	12	15	
Māori	438	299	149	42	19	S	S	S	0	0	S	951
Pacific Peoples	83	42	28	16	S	S	0	0	S	S	0	175
NZ European	168	113	51	21	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	357
Other	28	14	13	S	0	S	0	0	0	0	0	60
Unspecified	124	75	17	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	221
Total	841	543	258	87	26	S	S	S	S	S	S	1,764

Table 13: Number of working age main benefit clients with one or more subsequent child included in their benefit as at the end of December 2019, broken down by benefit group and the caregiver's age band.

Benefit group	Caregiver age band										Total
	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	
Emergency Benefit	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	0	S	0	16
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	S	S	13	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	27
Jobseeker Support related	S	413	494	398	288	119	40	16	6	S	1,784
Jobseeker Seeker Student Hardship	0	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	11
Supported Living Payment	S	33	75	72	46	20	6	S	S	S	265
Sole Parent Support	0	1,068	1,410	902	338	106	S	0	S	0	3,831
Young Person or Young Parent Payment	238	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	256

Notes:

- A subsequent child added to a benefit is not necessarily a new born or the client's biological child. It can also include children who have changed caregivers (examples scenarios include a breakdown of custody arrangement, child of a previous partner, or a child from the wider family).
- All subsequent children included in this table are less than one year of age.
- In order to protect client privacy, you will notice that some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

Table 14: Number of caregivers of children on a working age main benefit with a subsequent child added in the 2019 calendar year as at the end of December 2019, broken down by ethnic group

Benefit group	Caregiver ethnic group					Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
Emergency Benefit	S	S	S	S	S	16
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	8	8	S	S	6	27
Jobseeker Support	898	262	302	234	88	1,784
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	S	0	0	S	0	11
Supported Living Payment	118	S	94	25	S	265
Sole Parent Support	2,225	536	723	222	125	3,831
Young Person Benefit or Young Parent Payment	144	S	52	S	32	256

Notes:

- A subsequent child added to a benefit is not necessarily a new born or the client's biological child. It can also include children who have changed caregivers (examples scenarios include a breakdown of custody arrangement, child of a previous partner, or a child from the wider family).
- All subsequent children included in this table are less than one year of age.
- In order to protect client privacy, you will notice that some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

Table 15: Number of caregivers of children in receipt of a working age main benefit with a subsequent child added in the 2019 calendar year, broken down by gender of the caregiver

Benefit group	Caregiver Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
Emergency Benefit	S	S	16
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	S	S	27
Jobseeker Support	1,051	733	1,784
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	S	S	11
Supported Living Payment	198	67	265
Sole Parent Support	3,823	8	3,831
Young Person and Young Parent Payments	256	0	256

Notes:

- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran’s Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.
- A subsequent child added to a benefit is not necessarily a new born or the client’s biological child. It can also include children who have changed caregivers (examples scenarios include a breakdown of custody arrangement, child of a previous partner, or a child from the wider family).
- All subsequent children included in this table are less than one year of age.
- In order to protect client privacy, you will notice that some values are suppressed and are represented by ‘S’. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

Table 16: Number of Current Jobseeker Support recipients as at the end of December 2019, by earning status and health and disability status.

Earnings flag	Sub Benefit	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	Total
No earnings	Total Job Seeker Health Condition, Injury or Disability	19,210	4,241	25,537	9,436	2,127	60,551
	Total Job Seeker Work Ready and Job Seeker Work Ready Training	36,564	6,906	21,500	8,724	3,123	76,817
Has earnings	Total Job Seeker Health Condition, Injury or Disability	749	142	1,979	826	114	3,810
	Total Job Seeker Work Ready and Job Seeker Work Ready Training	2,148	404	2,472	1,068	194	6,286
Total		58,671	11,693	51,488	20,054	5,558	147,464

Notes:

- This table includes working age benefits only (18 to 64 years).
- This table counts single and primary clients only. It does not count clients' spouses in employment.
- Earnings is income from employment.
- Clients with earnings are in part-time employment. A client working full time cannot receive Job Seeker Support.
- Clients receiving Job Seeker Support on grounds of having a health condition, injury or disability may have part-time obligations or work preparation obligations depending on their capacity to work.
- Job Seeker Work related includes Job Seeker Work Ready and Job Seeker Work Ready Training Hardship.
- JS Work Ready Training related includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready Training and Jobseeker Support Work Ready Training Hardship. Job Seeker Work Ready Training related is aggregated with Job Seeker Work Ready related to avoid suppression.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen. When this occurs, the selected ethnicities are prioritised into a hierarchy where the Maori ethnicity has the highest priority in the hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by larger ethnic groups and can lead to an over-representation of Maori in some data sets.