



11 JUN 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 11 May 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many tertiary students submitted applications to access course related costs between the period of April 15 and May 2 2020?*
- *What is the average amount of course related costs requested for across these applications?*
- *How many of these applications requested \$1000 or more?*
- *How many of these applications requested \$500 or more?*

The Course-Related Costs (CRC) component of the Student Loan is provided to cover non-compulsory costs such as textbooks, stationery, course equipment, and can also be used for costs such as childcare and travel. The maximum amount of CRC a student can borrow under normal circumstances is \$1,000.00 per loan account¹.

On 14 April 2020, Cabinet announced the Tertiary Support Package to financially assist students to continue their study, as a response to the impacts of COVID-19. Included in this package was the temporary increase of the maximum threshold for CRC from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The extra amount for study in 2020 is a maximum of \$1,000 per student, not per loan account.

More information about CRC can be found on our website:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/students/student-loan/course-related-costs-01.html>

Table One shows the number of students claiming CRC and a breakdown of the amounts claimed between 15 April 2020 and 2 May 2020.

Table One: The number of students claiming CRC between 15 April 2020 and 2 May 2020, as at 15 May 2020

Amount of CRC claimed	Number of students
\$0 - \$500	3,260
\$500 - \$1,000	32,899
Over \$1,000	7,325
Total number of students submitting claims	43,484

¹ A loan account generally runs for a maximum of 52 weeks. Students may have more than one loan account if they have enrolments which cover more than 52 weeks.

Notes:

- This table shows the number of students who claimed CRC between 15 April and 2 May, as at 15 May, not the number of claims paid.

Table Two provides a breakdown of CRC balances on loan accounts which had a CRC payment between 15 April 2020 and 2 May 2020.

Table Two: CRC balances for Student Loan Accounts with a CRC claim paid between 15 April 2020 and 2 May 2020, as at 15 May 2020

CRC balance on Loan Account	Number of Accounts
\$0 - \$1,000	3,013
\$1,000 - \$1,500	2,469
\$1,500.01 - \$1,999.99	2,290
\$2,000	34,647

Notes:

- This table shows the total loan CRC balance for any client who was paid CRC between 15 April 2020 and 2 May 2020, as at 15 May.
- A Student Loan Account covers a maximum period of study of 52 weeks, excluding accounts with approved programmes longer than 52 weeks.
- Students can apply for CRC from 14 days prior to their study start date until their study end date.
- Students can submit multiple applications for CRC over the course of their study.
- As such, the balance may include amounts paid on this loan prior to 15 April 2020.

The average balance of CRC per Student Loan Account is \$1,861.01.

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 Course-Related Costs payments for the period 15 April 2020 to 2 May 2020, 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

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Simone Pringle
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