



10 MAR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

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

- *Figures for the number of persons in possession of a Community Services Card aged between 29 and 64 years (inclusive), and pregnant Persons aged between 29 and 64 (inclusive), and in possession of a Community Services Card, but not pregnant Persons aged 65 and older, and in possession of a Community Services Card.*
- *Figures for the most recent date available and for 2018 and 2019. I understand that the pregnancy information might not be available.*
- *This information is provided to assist members of Parliament in the fulfilment of their parliamentary responsibilities.*

The table below shows the number of Community Services Card (CSC) holders 29 years and over as at the end of December 2018 and December 2019, broken down by gender and age group.

The number of Community Services Card holders 29 years and over as at the end of December 2018 and 2019, broken down by gender and age group.

Year end	29-64 years			Over 65 years		
	Gender diverse	Female	Male	Gender diverse	Female	Male
Dec-18	0	234,422	167,189	0	176,670	125,416
Dec-19	9	247,532	182,744	S	183,866	131,241

Notes:

- This includes all clients with Community Service Cards 29 years and over.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.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.
- Forms and online applications were updated to include a gender diverse option from December 2019.

You have also asked for *figures for the number of pregnant persons in possession of a Community Services Card aged between 29 and 64 years (inclusive)*. The Ministry does not record information on a client's pregnancy status. Therefore, as the information cannot be provided, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act.

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 and attachments 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 Community Services Card holders, 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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Bridget Saunders

Team Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery