



24 MAR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 4 March 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Total numbers and dollar amounts of hardship assistance payments for Special Needs Grants (SNG) for Food, broken down by Work and Income offices;*
- *Average dollar amount of a hardship assistance payment for a SNG for Food, broken down by Work and Income offices;*
- *Please provide a breakdown of all data by quarter, from the quarter ending December 2019 and the quarter end of March 2020.*

The Ministry provides hardship assistance to help people pay for essential items or services they need urgently. Hardship assistance includes Special Needs Grants (SNGs) which provide non-taxable, one-off recoverable or non-recoverable financial assistance to people to meet immediate needs, such as a food grant.

A person does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for an SNG, but they must meet an income and asset test. More information about SNGs for food is available on Work and Income's website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/food.html.

Please find below a list containing hardship assistance payments for SNG's for food for the quarter ending December 2019.

The number and amount granted for food SNG's during the quarter ending December 2019, broken down by Work and Income office.

Work and Income Office	Number of grants	Average amount	Amount granted
Albany	1,086	\$116.61	\$126,636.49
Alexandra	105	\$129.44	\$13,591.00
Ashburton	169	\$104.74	\$17,700.36
Avondale	709	\$101.33	\$71,841.22
Balclutha	101	\$111.92	\$11,304.31
Blenheim	737	\$111.00	\$81,809.38

Work and Income Office	Number of grants	Average amount	Amount granted
Cambridge	100	\$91.84	\$9,184.22
Clendon	3,296	\$138.74	\$457,296.40
Dannevirke	342	\$115.28	\$39,426.88
Dargaville	127	\$110.31	\$14,009.11
Dinsdale	1,602	\$102.66	\$164,465.95
Dunedin Central	1,195	\$91.46	\$109,298.07
Feilding	244	\$98.12	\$23,941.17
Five Cross Roads	1,614	\$96.66	\$156,007.11
Flaxmere	213	\$119.72	\$25,500.44
Foxton	318	\$120.92	\$38,452.00
Gisborne	1,451	\$108.06	\$156,796.39
Glenfield	828	\$100.55	\$83,255.55
Glenmall	2,035	\$124.86	\$254,095.65
Glenview	522	\$97.88	\$51,092.48
Gore	308	\$109.56	\$33,743.00
Greerton	567	\$98.74	\$55,988.39
Grey Lynn	1,021	\$130.08	\$132,806.80
Greymouth	249	\$98.65	\$24,563.66
Hamilton	951	\$80.96	\$76,995.57
Hamilton East	732	\$91.40	\$66,906.47
Hastings Community Link	916	\$105.09	\$96,260.09
Hawera	279	\$112.16	\$31,292.11
Helensville	269	\$91.07	\$24,496.67
Highland Park	586	\$114.62	\$67,170.21
Hornby	568	\$105.11	\$59,703.46
Horowhenua	702	\$107.32	\$75,337.59
Hunters Corner District	940	\$105.00	\$98,700.07
Huntly	480	\$101.15	\$48,552.56
Invercargill	1,140	\$108.70	\$123,917.76
Johnsonville	601	\$95.79	\$57,569.65
Kaikohe	517	\$98.46	\$50,905.81
Kaitaia	1,088	\$100.67	\$109,533.64
Kaiti	S	S	\$670.00
Kamo	315	\$108.36	\$34,134.63
Kapiti	971	\$97.47	\$94,647.78
Kawakawa	182	\$116.95	\$21,284.50
Kawerau	346	\$96.33	\$33,330.22
Kerikeri	434	\$102.06	\$44,292.84
Linwood	743	\$90.05	\$66,903.48
Lower Hutt	661	\$105.47	\$69,714.79
Mangere	3,802	\$150.12	\$570,769.62
Manukau District	1,080	\$111.13	\$120,024.00

Work and Income Office	Number of grants	Average amount	Amount granted
Manurewa	4,793	\$133.90	\$641,760.66
Marton	124	\$102.40	\$12,697.12
Matamata	107	\$104.17	\$11,146.00
Morrinsville	159	\$88.64	\$14,094.49
Mosgiel	127	\$96.55	\$12,261.97
Motueka	315	\$100.19	\$31,560.14
Mount Maunganui	779	\$105.61	\$82,266.38
Mt Albert	684	\$168.66	\$115,363.23
Mt Eden	475	\$74.58	\$35,425.72
Naenae	1,760	\$104.44	\$183,821.39
Napier	1,613	\$97.74	\$157,648.75
Nelson	621	\$101.11	\$62,786.88
New Brighton	546	\$91.14	\$49,762.27
New Lynn	1,272	\$110.77	\$140,895.57
New Plymouth	1,338	\$93.25	\$124,774.05
Newtown	1,786	\$107.69	\$192,329.36
Ngaruawahia	307	\$86.77	\$26,637.64
Oamaru	203	\$103.69	\$21,048.51
Onehunga	1,307	\$141.57	\$185,035.34
Opotiki	274	\$106.94	\$29,302.46
Orewa	1,106	\$99.61	\$110,168.39
Otahuhu	1,882	\$130.22	\$245,072.92
Otaki	396	\$102.39	\$40,545.81
Otara	2,904	\$135.60	\$393,774.89
Paeroa	73	\$94.08	\$6,868.00
Palmerston North	1,082	\$96.06	\$103,938.08
Papakura	5,278	\$123.01	\$649,239.20
Papanui	689	\$89.85	\$61,907.06
Papatoetoe	1,052	\$129.98	\$136,738.75
Porirua	1,746	\$103.65	\$180,980.97
Pukekohe	1,992	\$128.49	\$255,954.84
Queen Street	1,451	\$95.51	\$138,581.70
Queenstown	S	S	\$7,301.00
Rangiora	479	\$117.48	\$56,272.54
Riccarton	451	\$77.84	\$35,103.87
Richmond	431	\$114.85	\$49,498.47
Rotorua	2,401	\$97.84	\$234,921.89
Ruatoria	95	\$105.85	\$10,055.52
Shirley	600	\$80.64	\$48,385.93
South Dunedin	513	\$86.45	\$44,348.04
Stratford	196	\$105.87	\$20,749.97
Sydenham	843	\$84.60	\$71,320.55

Work and Income Office	Number of grants	Average amount	Amount granted
Taihape	88	\$97.33	\$8,564.70
Takapuna	767	\$94.90	\$72,790.88
Tamaki	2,118	\$121.74	\$257,840.77
Taradale	382	\$99.74	\$38,099.80
Taumarunui	137	\$95.62	\$13,100.00
Taupo	468	\$99.71	\$46,663.40
Tauranga	320	\$95.06	\$30,419.40
Te Awamutu	452	\$104.50	\$47,233.60
Te Kuiti	218	\$106.80	\$23,282.42
Te Puke	325	\$100.26	\$32,585.39
Thames	137	\$96.25	\$13,186.62
Three Kings	1,172	\$101.22	\$118,635.20
Timaru	525	\$94.90	\$49,821.02
Tokoroa	499	\$88.32	\$44,070.06
Upper Hutt	895	\$105.29	\$94,234.01
Waiheke	121	\$104.70	\$12,668.94
Waihi	197	\$107.10	\$21,098.98
Wainuiomata	465	\$107.89	\$50,169.75
Waipukurau	169	\$112.29	\$18,977.02
Wairarapa	992	\$108.52	\$107,655.55
Wairoa	240	\$104.46	\$25,071.00
Waitakere	4,164	\$133.40	\$555,464.37
Waitara	143	\$95.42	\$13,644.93
Waiuku	645	\$104.36	\$67,314.37
Warkworth	417	\$105.95	\$44,181.27
Wellington	617	\$84.10	\$51,888.57
Westgate	1,829	\$132.36	\$242,092.45
Westport	154	\$105.95	\$16,317.00
Whakatane	609	\$97.70	\$59,498.69
Whanganui	1,071	\$89.99	\$96,384.60
Whangarei Central	1,688	\$104.30	\$176,061.45
Other	203,708	\$91.64	\$18,667,071.67
Total	307,291	\$98.75	\$30,344,353.75

Notes:

- 'Other' is Contact Centres and Online applications.
- This is a count of grants, not clients. The same client may have received more than one grant.

In order to protect client privacy, 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.

Please note that your request for data for the quarter ending March 2020 is not yet available. The next quarter of data will be available in April 2020. At this point in time, your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not yet exist.

Please contact the Ministry in order to confirm whether you still require the data for the quarter ending March 2020. If yes, you would be provided with that data on 15 April 2020.

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 regarding Special Needs Grants for food 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
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery