



04 MAY 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 6 March 2020, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) accepted a transfer of your request from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. You requested, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

I wish to have the following information regarding Work and Income Northland/ Whangarei.

- 1. How many TIA, Training Incentive Allowances have been awarded to beneficiaries in the last two business years in the Northland province. With other words how much money has been spent on TIA in Northland.*
- 2. How many beneficiaries have been allowed to enrol in the Mainstream Employment Program especially the Internship program for people with mental health disabilities?*
- 3. I would like to know how many applications, for TIA have been made in Northland.*
- 4. Lastly, are there any records of cases where Beneficiaries Applications have been declined. The applicant then asked for a review and subsequently had their initial decision overruled in favour of the client. I am searching for a pattern here.*

The Ministry emailed you on 16 March 2020 and 20 March 2020 to clarify the area and time period relating to your request. As you did not respond to our email, the Ministry has interpreted that you are seeking information for the Northland Region and Whangarei area. Regarding the time period aspect of your request, the Ministry has interpreted that you are requesting information for the last two financial years, being 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. The Ministry has compiled this response within the scope of these parameters.

For the sake of clarity, your questions are addressed in turn:

- 1. How many TIA, Training Incentive Allowances have been awarded to beneficiaries in the last two business years in the Northland province. With other words how much money has been spent on TIA in Northland.*

Tables One and Two below show the dollar amount granted for Training Incentive Allowance Special Needs Grants (TIA SNG's) in the Northland Work and Income Region and in the Whangarei Work and Income Service Centre, respectively, for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Table One: Dollar Amount Granted for Training Incentive Allowance Special Needs Grants in the Northland Work and Income Region for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Financial Year (1 July-30 June)	Amount Granted
2017/18	\$11,733.19
2018/19	\$38,919.87

Table Two: Dollar Amount Granted for Training Incentive Allowance Special Needs Grants in the Whangarei Work and Income Service Centre for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Financial Year (1 July-30 June)	Amount Granted
2017/18	\$532.00
2018/19	\$10,432.39

Notes for Table One and Table Two:

- The value of one-off Special Needs Grants only is included in these tables. It does not include the value of any weekly payments.
 - This shows the dollar amount granted and not the amount spent.
2. *How many beneficiaries have been allowed to enrol in the Mainstream Employment Program especially the Internship program for people with mental health disabilities?*

The Ministry reviewed its files and identified that six clients were on the Mainstream Employment Program from the Northland Region for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years. I can confirm that of the six clients, none listed their disability as mental health related.

3. *I would like to know how many applications, for TIA have been made in Northland.*

The tables below show the number of applications for Training Incentive Allowance in the Northland Work and Income Region and in the Whangarei Work and Income Service Centre for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Table Three: Number of applications for Training Incentive Allowance in the Northland Work and Income Region for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Financial Year (1 July-30 June)	Declines	Grants	Applications
2017/18	9	42	51
2018/19	7	77	84

Notes:

- The same client may have made more than one application in each year, or across several years.
- This is a count of applications not clients.

Table Four: Number of applications for Training Incentive Allowance in the Whangarei Work and Income Service Centre for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years.

Financial Year (1 July-30 June)	Applications
2017/18	8
2018/19	18

Notes:

- The same client may have made more than one application in each year, or across several years.
- This is a count of applications not clients.
- 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 withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

4. *Lastly, are there any records of cases where Beneficiaries Applications have been declined. The applicant then asked for a review and subsequently had their initial decision overruled in favour of the client. I am searching for a pattern here.*

Your request for information regarding the number of declined TIA applications overturned in the client's favour when clients have lodged a review of decision is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as none met this criterion.

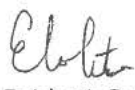
The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- 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 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 regarding the TIA in the Northland Region and in the Whangarei Service Centre for the 2018 and 2019 Financial Years, 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
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