



28 MAY 2020

Tēnā koe

On 6 May 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How much money the Ministry sends to The Salvation Army Supportive Care in Addington New Zealand.*

On 14 May 2020, you were advised that, under section 14 of the Act, part of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as some of the information to which your request relates, namely for contracted costs for the transitional housing facility, is not held by the Ministry but is believed to be held by HUD. I understand that HUD has made contact with you regarding this aspect of your request.

The Social Rehabilitation Assistance (SRA) is a welfare programme aimed at providing financial assistance to clients who are resident in approved residential social rehabilitation programmes to help with the cost of their treatment or care in those programmes and whose benefit is not sufficient to meet the fees charged.

In order to receive the subsidy, the social rehabilitation provider must verify that the client is resident in an approved social rehabilitation programme. The payment of SRA must be made direct to the provider. A client can also ask for all or part of their regular benefit payment to be redirected to the service provider, or another person, while they are in the programme. The rate of payment differs depending on which area the social rehabilitation programme is running in. The areas used for assessing the amount granted are the same as those specified for the Accommodation Supplement.

You can read more about the 'definitions of areas' on the Work and Income website available here: <http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html>.

As at 1 April 2020, based on its defined area, the rate of payment per client for The Salvation Army, 62 Poulsen Street, Addington, Christchurch is \$190.36 per week. Please note that providers determine who meets the entry criteria for their services including any specific rules relating to sex or gender. This may vary by provider.

The SRA is paid under the Miscellaneous Subsidy category in the Ministry's database management system (SWIFTT) and while the system stores a weekly rate, it does not state who the subsidy is to be paid to. Furthermore, in some cases, the weekly amount deducted does not reconcile with the payment rate of the social rehabilitation provider as a client may have more than one deduction.

The Ministry is therefore unable to provide the total amount of SRA it has paid to the provider you have specified as this information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review all the payee deductions set up over time against the recipients' benefit in SWIFTT. I have therefore refused your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Further information about SRA is available on the Work and Income website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/social-rehabilitation-assistance/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/social-rehabilitation-assistance/introduction.html).

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. 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding SRA paid to The Salvation Army 62 Poulsen Street, Addington, Christchurch, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

PP 

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**