



24 NOV 2020

On 30 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A breakdown of what the Temporary Additional Support (TAS) is being used for? I would like to know when people apply and get granted support by means of the TAS, what the assistance is for? Is it to help with their housing costs that will be above and beyond of what the Accommodation Supplement can cater for? Or is it to help with their disability costs that will be above and beyond of what the Disability Allowance can cater for? What are the other situations that people can assistance from TAS?*
- *Some of the other situations that I am aware of where TAS provides assistance is where a vehicle has been acquired or essential childcare costs. Do I assume correctly that under the "Social Security Regulations 2018, Part 2 Assistance, 71 Allowable costs," the list of Payments for Essential Household Items isn't covered by TAS but normally covered as a Recoverable Grant or does TAS come into play here as well?*
- *Can you provide me with a percentage and actual dollar value breakdown please?*

TAS is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. If assistance is still required after 13 weeks clients can reapply. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. This includes costs relating to accommodation and disability and can be provided in addition with the Accommodation Supplement or Disability Allowance if a client's circumstances fit the prerequisites.

The allowable costs that can be included in TAS must be ongoing and regular expenses, calculated on a weekly basis. For example, where a person has a hire purchase agreement for an essential household item, the repayment amount may be included in TAS as an allowable cost. Where a person needs assistance to purchase an essential item, they can apply for one-off recoverable assistance, such as an Advance Payment of Benefit or a Recoverable Assistance Payment. This type of payment cannot be included in TAS.

More information about recoverable grants is publicly available and can be found on the Work and Income website at the following links:

- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html)
- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/index.html)

Allowable costs are grouped into the following four categories:

- Essential household items
- Employment related costs
- Accommodation costs
- Health and disability costs.

More detail on the four categories of allowable costs for TAS can be found on the Work and Income website at this link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/allowable-costs-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/allowable-costs-01.html).

Section 71 of the Social Security Regulations 2018 relates to the allowable costs that can be included in TAS. The legislation is publicly available and can be viewed at the following link: [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0202/latest/LMS96441.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0202/latest/LMS96441.html).

Please see the below table in response to the part of your request for an actual dollar value breakdown of TAS payments.

**Table One:** Number of clients receiving Temporary Additional Support nationally and the total weekly and average amount paid as at 31 October 2020

<b>Number of clients</b>	<b>Total weekly amount</b>	<b>Average weekly amount</b>
96,452	\$5,796,143	\$60

**Notes:**

- The maximum amount allowable for Temporary Additional Support is defined as 30% of the net rate of the main benefit, or 30% of the net rate of Jobseeker Support if a client is not receiving a main benefit. In addition to this, the maximum can also include a disability exemption amount when a client is receiving the maximum amount of Disability Allowance. The disability exemption amount is equal to 30% of costs that are in excess of the amount of Disability Allowance.

Please note that TAS is paid based on the assessment of a client's full situation, including income and outgoings, and the total weekly amount paid is unable to be broken down by allowable costs or percentage.

More information about TAS can be found on the Ministry's website at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/index.html). If you have any further questions regarding TAS or would like to talk about specific examples, you can call the Work and Income general enquiries team on 0800 559 009.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Temporary Additional Support, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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