



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

06 APR 2021

Tēnā koe

On 3 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The DA provision to all working aged beneficiaries and dependent's by ethnicity (NZ European, Māori, Pacific, Other) by service centre, summarised by region.*
- *The number of working aged beneficiaries by service centre, summarised by region, by the same ethnic groups, for the September quarter 2020.*
- *The same data for the September 2019 quarter.*

On 10 February 2021, you confirmed that you are happy to be provided with December 2019 and December 2020 quarter data.

Working-age people are aged 18 to 64 years. This definition reflects the minimum age of eligibility for most benefits, and the age of qualification for New Zealand Superannuation. More information on main benefit statistics can be found at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/latest-quarterly-results/all-main-benefits.html.

Work and Income pays up to a maximum of \$65.36 a week for a Disability Allowance (DA). How much a client receives depends on the extra costs that client has because of their disability. As a part of the application for DA, clients are required to provide a Disability Certificate form – which is completed by a health practitioner – along with proof of their on-going disability-related costs (e.g. pharmacy and medical receipts and invoices, electricity bills and petrol receipts.)

A client is obliged to advise Work and Income of any changes in their circumstances that might affect their entitlement to a DA. Furthermore, a case manager may also review a DA, to ensure a client is receiving the correct rate of payment.

Please find attached three excel spreadsheets with the following tables:

- **Appendix A**
 - o **Table One:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2019, broken down by region, site and ethnicity.

- **Table Two:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for the partners of primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2019, broken down by region, site and ethnicity of the primary beneficiary.
 - **Table Three:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for the children of primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2019, broken down by region, site and ethnicity of the primary beneficiary.
- **Appendix B**
- **Table One:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2020, broken down by region, site and ethnicity.
 - **Table Two:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for the partners of primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2020, broken down by region, site and ethnicity of the primary beneficiary.
 - **Table Three:** The number of Disability Allowances paid for the children of primary beneficiaries as at the end of December 2020, broken down by region, site and ethnicity of the primary beneficiary.
- **Appendix C**
- **Table One:** The number of current working age main benefit clients as at the end of December 2019, broken down by region, site and ethnicity.
 - **Table Two:** The number of current working age main benefit clients as at the end of December 2020, broken down by region, site and ethnicity.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response in regard to Disability Allowance and main benefit data, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

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