



23 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 14 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The current number of grandfathers who provide sole care to their grandchildren in NZ.*

On 5 July 2021, the Ministry contacted you to clarify the information you are requesting in order to make sure you receive information that is helpful to you.

On the same day, the following interpretation of your request was agreed upon with you:

- *The number of current clients, who are male, with grandchildren in their care and recorded in our system as not having a partner.*

On 9 July 2021, the Ministry advised you that your request had been extended to 30 July 2021, as more time for consultation was necessary.

The Ministry is providing reporting on cases of a child included in a Benefit, Non-Beneficiary, Pension, or Orphans Benefit or Unsupported Child Benefit payments where the relationship recorded is as a grandparent and the adult client is male.

Unsupported Child's Benefit provides income support to the caregiver of a child whose parents are unable to care for or support them. It is a non-taxable benefit that is not affected by the income and assets of the caregiver. You do not have to be in receipt of a benefit to receive Unsupported Child Benefit. Eligibility for an Unsupported Child's Benefit requires evidence of a family breakdown and a care arrangement expected to last for a minimum of twelve months.

You can find more information regarding UCB at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/unsupported-childs-benefit-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/unsupported-childs-benefit-01.html)

In situations of 'cultural adoption' (for example tamaiti whāngai children), there must still be a family breakdown before Unsupported Childs Benefit can be paid.

Information about other benefit types can be found here: [Benefits and payments - Work and Income](#)

Please find enclosed **Table One**, which outlines the number of clients who are male and with grandchildren in their care as at the end of March 2021, broken down by marital status.

**Table One: The number of clients who are male and with grandchildren in their care as at the end of March 2021, broken down by marital status.**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number of Adults</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
Single Male	366	525
Couple	174	237
Unknown	195	297
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>1,059</b>

**Notes for Table One:**

- The Ministry have reported cases of a child included in a Benefit, non-Beneficiary, Pension, or OB UCB payment where the relationship record is as a grandparent and the adult client is male.
- The Ministry established whether a client is single or in couple and whether the client is on primary or a main benefit or receiving New Zealand Superannuation.
- The marital status is unknown when the client is not a primary caregiver in a main benefit or not receiving New Zealand Superannuation.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

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 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).

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If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the number of current clients, who are male, with grandchildren in their care and recorded in our system as not having a partner, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager Issue Resolution**