



04 MAR 2021

On 27 January 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Number of children in households receiving:*
 - 1a. *income-tested main benefits overall total*
 - 1b. *total for each of the main benefits (SPS, SLP, JSS etc) separately*
 - 1c. *NZ Super or Veterans Pension, and*
 - 1d. *Accommodation Supplement*

2. *Number of sole parent households and number of children in sole parent households receiving 1a, 1b, 1c and/or 1d.*

3. *Number and percentage of Accommodation Supplement primary recipients*
 - 3a: *receiving income-tested main benefits, total and each benefit separately*
 - 3b: *receiving NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension*
 - 3c: *receiving no main benefit*
 - 3d: *in AS Area 1 (total number of primary recipients, and number of primary recipients receiving the maximum AS amount for this area)*
 - 3e: *in AS Area 2 (total number of primary recipients, and number of primary recipients receiving the maximum AS amount for this area)*
 - 3f: *in AS Area 3 (total number of primary recipients, and number of primary recipients receiving the maximum AS amount for this area)*
 - 3g: *in AS Area 4 (total number of primary recipients, and number of primary recipients receiving the maximum AS amount for this area)*
 - 3h: *couple no children*
 - 3i: *couple, 1 child*
 - 3j: *couple, 2 or more children*
 - 3k: *single person, no children*
 - 3l: *sole parent, 1 child, and*
 - 3m: *sole parent, 2 or more children*

4. *Working for Families - this request is also being sent to IRD: Numbers of children, and numbers of families (total) (and if possible, numbers of sole parent families, and numbers of benefit-receiving families), receiving:*
 - 4a: *Any Working for Families support*
 - 4b: *Any Best Start support*
 - 4c: *Full Best Start support (i.e. not abated)*

- *4d: Any Family Tax Credit (FTC)*
- *4e: Full FTC (i.e. not abated)*
- *4f: Any subsequent child FTC*
- *4g: Any In-Work Tax Credit (IWTC)*
- *4h: Full IWTC (i.e. not abated)*

On 28 January 2021, you contacted the Ministry and added the following to your request:

- *3n: separate totals for owner-occupiers, renters and boarders*

On 15 February 2021, the Ministry transferred part four of your request to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD). This is because the information requested at part four of your request is more closely connected to the functions of IRD and is not held by the Ministry.

The Ministry offers several main benefits to people who need financial support and fit the eligibility criteria. The type of main benefit a person may receive is dependent on their circumstances. Information about the types of benefits available and what type of benefit is suitable to a person's circumstance is available on the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/index.html

In response to parts one, two and three of your request, please find the following tables provided in **Appendix One** of this letter:

Table One, the number of current clients receiving payments and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Table Two, the number of current clients without partners receiving payments and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Table Three, the number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Table Four, the number of current clients without partners receiving an Accommodation Supplement and dependent children in their care as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Table Five, the number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care as at end of December 2020, broken down by Accommodation Supplement Regions

Table Six, the number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care as at end of December 2020, broken down by family composition.

Table Seven, the number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care as at end of December 2020, broken down by accommodation type.

More information on benefits and payments provided by the Ministry is available on the Work and Income website. This includes an A-Z Benefits and Payments list, which explain each type in detail. This page can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.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.

If you are not satisfied with this response relating to statistics relating to benefits provided by the Ministry, 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



Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix One

Table One: The number of current clients receiving payments and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Benefit Type	Number of Clients	Number of Children
Emergency Benefit	6,018	1,152
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	753	1,254
Jobseeker Support	213,174	53,718
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	10,173	3,027
New Zealand Superannuation	825,594	438
Non-Beneficiary	76,248	77,736
Sole Parent Support	67,566	133,065
Supported Living Payment	93,510	17,289
Supported Living Payment Overseas	3,693	360
Veteran's Pension	6,264	3
Widow's Benefit Overseas	3	0
Young Parent Payment	1,527	1,662
Youth Payment	1,692	0
Total	1,306,209	289,701

Table Two: The number of current clients without partners and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Benefit Type	Number of Clients without partners	Number of Children
Emergency Benefit	354	597
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	741	1,257
Jobseeker Support	18,858	27,309
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	1,239	2,127
New Zealand Superannuation	159	195
Non-Beneficiary	21,912	37,404
Sole Parent Support	67,506	133,062
Supported Living Payment	7,860	13,182
Supported Living Payment Overseas	237	357
Veteran's Pension	3	0
Young Parent Payment	1,485	1,662
Total	120,354	217,155

Table Three: The number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Benefit Type	Number of Clients	Number of Children
Emergency Benefit	3,744	648
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	480	777
Jobseeker Support	152,838	31,599
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	6,144	2,337
New Zealand Superannuation	46,458	123
Non-Beneficiary	68,433	74,817
Sole Parent Support	48,195	91,329
Supported Living Payment	49,422	9,837
Veteran's Pension	270	0
Youth/Young Parent Payment	2,148	1,020
Total	378,132	212,490

Table Four: The number of current clients without a partner receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by benefit type.

Benefit Type	Number of Clients without partners	Number of Children
Emergency Benefit	207	342
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	480	777
Jobseeker Support	11,820	16,509
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	984	1,689
New Zealand Superannuation	66	75
Non-Beneficiary	21,291	36,510
Sole Parent Support	48,153	91,329
Supported Living Payment	4,518	7,491
Veteran's Pension	0	3
Youth/Young Parent Payment	915	1,023
Total	88,434	155,748

Table Five: The number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by Accommodation Supplement Regions.

Accommodation Supplement	Paid less than max		Paid max	
	Number of Clients	Number of Children	Number of Clients	Number of Children
Area1	104,637	59,289	33,432	19,359
Area2	86,043	48,051	41,280	22,443
Area3	33,291	17,655	22,959	13,902
Area4	32,019	17,190	24,444	14,592
Not Coded	0	0	24	9
Total	255,990	142,185	122,139	70,302

Notes for table six:

- More information on Accommodation Supplement Regions can be found on the Ministry website at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2017/budget-2017/new-regions.html.

Table Six: The number of current clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by family composition.

Family Composition	Number of Clients	Number of Children
Couple with 1 child	9,615	9,615
Couple with 2 or more children	17,559	47,130
Couple with no children	25,251	0
Single with no children	237,276	0
Sole parent with 1 child	44,148	44,148
Sole parent with 2 or more children	44,286	111,603
Total	378,129	212,490

Table Seven: The number of current clients receiving Accommodation Supplement and the number of dependent children in their care, as at end of December 2020, broken down by accommodation type.

Accommodation Type	Number of Clients	Number of Children
Boarding	82,449	15,129
Own Home	39,912	28,995
Renting	255,771	168,363
Total	378,132	212,490

Notes for all tables:

- The 'Number of Children' refers to the number of children that the clients referred to in the 'Number of Clients' columns have. Some recipients of Accommodation Supplements may also be receiving a main benefit. Therefore, these totals should not be added to other benefit data.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses a process 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. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. For example, a value of one or two may therefore be rounded to zero or three.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.