



Tēnā koe

On 4 August 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *The number of Community Service Card holders nationally*
2. *The number of Community Service Card holders in Greater Wellington, and*
3. *The number of Community Service Card holders in Greater Wellington who also have a Gold Card (ie. are aged 65+).*

On 10 August 2021, the Ministry emailed you to clarify the information you were requesting to ensure the information being provided to you was what you were seeking. The Ministry recommended you refine your request to a specific period and advised you that once your request was refined, the Ministry would treat your clarified request as a new request that replaces the original request under section 15(1AA) of the Act.

On the same day, you replied to the Ministry asking for the data of the above requested information to be as at the end of June 2021, or for the most recent month that the data is available.

A Community Services Card is available to low or middle income earners to enable them and their family to access subsidised health services. The Senior Support Centre is responsible for determining if a client qualifies for a Community Services Card, and for the distribution and administration of the card. Clients receiving an income-tested benefit are automatically issued a Community Services Card.

You can find more information regarding Community Services Cards at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/card-services/community-services-card/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/card-services/community-services-card/introduction.html).

Please see enclosed **Appendix A**, which contains the following two tables:

- **Table One:** The current number of Community Services Cards nationally, as at 30 June 2021.
- **Table Two:** The current number of Community Services Cards only and the number of Community Services Cards plus Super Gold Cards, in the Wellington region, as at 30 June 2021, by Territorial Location Authority (TLA) and type.

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 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 Community Service Card holders, 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

*Bridget Saunders*

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

**Appendix A.****Table One: The current number of Community Services Cards nationally, as at 30 June 2021.**

<b>Community Services Card Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Community Services Card Only - No Super Gold Card	747,921
Super Gold plus Community Services Card	332,232
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,080,153</b>

**Table Two: The Current number of Community Services Cards only and the number of Community Services Cards plus Super Gold Cards, in the Wellington region, as at 30 June 2021, by Territorial Location Authority (TLA) and type.**

<b>TLA name</b>	<b>Community Services Card Type</b>	
	<b>Community Services Card Only - No Super Gold Card</b>	<b>Community Services Card plus Super Gold Card</b>
Kapiti Coast District	6,447	5,718
Lower Hutt City	15,312	6,933
Porirua City	9,102	2,997
Upper Hutt City	5,292	3,234
Wellington City	23,862	7,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,018</b>	<b>25,953</b>

**Notes for all tables.**

- Community Services Cards includes cards in Wellington Region. Does not include children on Orphans and Unsupported Child benefits, and Child Disability Allowance.
- A Community Services Card is issued to both members of a couple. In this report both members are counted.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development 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 1 to 5 may be suppressed with an 'S'.
- 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.