



9 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 16 July 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *At June 2022, regarding Jobseeker HCD clients with a primary incapacity of alcohol and substance abuse, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *At Jun 2022, regarding Supported Living Payment clients with a primary incapacity of psychological and psychiatric conditions, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *Please provide the same data at June 2018 and 2014.*

On 19 July 2022, you clarified your request by email to the following:

- *At June 2022, regarding Jobseeker HCD clients with a primary incapacity of alcohol and substance abuse, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *At June 2022, regarding Supported Living Payment clients with a primary incapacity of alcohol and substance abuse, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *Please provide the same data at June 2018 and 2014.*

Your questions seek information about the Ministry's Jobseeker Support and Supported Living Payment. You may be aware that from 15 July 2013, New Zealand's welfare system changed to better help people prepare for employment. The focus is on what people can do to achieve a better future for themselves and their family. Three benefits replaced most of the previous benefit types. These are as follows:

- **Jobseeker Support (JS)** – Replaced the Unemployment Benefit, Sickness Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit (Women Alone, Sole Parent if youngest child is aged 14 and over) and the Widow's Benefit

(without children, or if youngest child is aged 14 and over). JS is available to people who can usually work full-time. It also includes people who can only work part-time or can't look for work at the moment, for example because they have a health condition, injury or disability. More information about JS can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html.

- **Sole Parent Support (SPS)** – Replaced the Domestic Purposes Benefit (Sole Parent if youngest child is aged under 14) and the Widow's Benefit (if youngest child is aged under 14). SPS is available to sole parents caring for children under the age of 14 who are available for or are ready to prepare for part-time work. More information about SPS can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/sole-parent-support.html.
- **Supported Living Payment (SLP)** – Replaced the Invalid's Benefit and Domestic Purposes Benefit (Caring for Sick or Infirm). The SLP is available to people who are severely restricted or unable to work on a long-term basis because of a health condition or disability, and for people who are caring for someone who needs significant care. More information about SLP can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html.

Please find the following two tables attached in response to your request, in **Appendix A:**

- **Table One:** Working age Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury and Disability with primary incapacity group 'substance abuse' as at the end of June 2014, 2018, and 2022, broken down by whether children are included in the benefit or not.
- **Table Two:** Working age Supported Living Payment Health Condition, Injury and Disability with primary incapacity group 'substance abuse' as at the end of June 2014, 2018, and 2022, broken down by whether children are included in the benefit or not.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**