



6 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 14 November 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many people, who list Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts as their place of residence have requested a food assistance grant from MSD in the year.*

The Ministry, through Work and Income, provides recoverable and non-recoverable financial assistance to help people meet an immediate need for essential items such as food, health costs, power and other costs. These payments are available to any person as long as they meet the income and asset test, and they are unable to meet the cost for an essential need from any other source. More information is available on our website, here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/special-needs-grant.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/special-needs-grant.html).

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing **Table One** showing the number of people who have requested one or more food grants in the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 broken down by quarter.

Please note, this table covers applications that have been granted or declined. An applicant may have more than one granted or declined application within a quarter, however they will only be counted once.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding food grants in the Waimakariri and Hurunui districts, 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 Issue Resolution  
Service Delivery**

## Appendix One

**Table One: The number of people who have requested one or more food grants in the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 broken down by quarter.**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Hurunui District</b>	<b>Waimakariri District</b>	<b>Total Applicants</b>
December 2021	210	1,116	<b>1,323</b>
March 2022	222	1,260	<b>1,482</b>
June 2022	210	1,089	<b>1,299</b>
September 2022	198	1,116	<b>1,314</b>

### Notes:

- This table includes only processed applications that have been granted or declined.
- This is not a count of grants or declines. It is a count of people.
- An applicant may have more than one grant or decline within a period and Territorial Local Authority (TLA).
- The applicants will be counted once in each quarter and TLA. Applicants will also be counted once in the Total.
- TLA is estimated based on the applicant's address as at the date of grant or decline.
- 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.
- 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.