



31 January 2022

Tēnā koe

On 21 September 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of Te Hiku whānau who receive Accommodation Supplement:*
 - *a. The type of main benefit, pension or student allowance they receive*
 - *b. The number of recipients who do not receive a main benefit*
 - *c. The ethnicity of the recipient*
 - *d. The family circumstances (i.e single, sole parent with 1 child, married etc)*
 - *e. The number of these who receive Accommodation Supplement as Area 3*
 - *f. The number of these who receive Accommodation Supplement as Area 4*
 - *g. The number of these who are boarding*
 - *h. The number of these who are renting*
 - *i. The number of these who are home owners*
- *What was the amount of Accommodation Supplement paid in Te Hiku for 2020 and how many people did this amount represent?*
- *What was the family circumstances breakdown of this amount?*
- *Are there any Te Hiku trends for Accommodation Supplement over the past two years?*

I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

The Accommodation Supplement (AS) is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards a client's accommodation costs. It is available for people who rent, board or own their own home and a person does not have to be receiving a benefit to qualify. It is calculated using a formula that takes into account geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership). You can find more information about the AS at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html.

Information regarding the rates of AS can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/entry-thresholds-and-maximum-rates.html.

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in turn. Please note that for the following Tables One to Eight, Te Hiku has been defined as the Te Hiku geographical region. A map of the Te Hiku 2017 Meshblock boundaries used to collate the provided data has been attached to this response for your information.

- a. The type of main benefit, pension or student allowance they receive*
- b. The number of recipients who do not receive a main benefit*

Please find **Table One** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by benefit type.

- c. The ethnicity of the recipient*

Please find **Table Two** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by ethnicity.

- d. The family circumstances (i.e single, sole parent with 1 child, married etc)*

Please find **Table Three** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by family type.

- e. The number of these who receive Accommodation Supplement as Area 3*
- f. The number of these who receive Accommodation Supplement as Area 4*

Please find **Table Four** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by AS area.

- g. The number of these who are boarding*
- h. The number of these who are renting*
- i. The number of these who are home owners*

Please find **Table Five** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by tenure type.

- *What was the amount of Accommodation Supplement paid in Te Hiku for 2020 and how many people did this amount represent?*

Please find **Table Six** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of each quarter in 2020 by quarter, number of clients, and total AS weekly rate.

- *What was the family circumstances breakdown of this amount?*

Please find **Table Seven** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of each quarter in 2020 by quarter and family type.

- *Are there any Te Hiku trends for Accommodation Supplement over the past two years?*

Please find **Table Eight** in **Appendix A**, showing clients from the Te Hiku area of interest receiving Accommodation Supplement as at quarter ending December 2019 to September 2021 by quarter.

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 Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix A

Table One: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by benefit type

Benefit type	Total
Emergency Benefit	12
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	3
Jobseeker Student Hardship	0
Jobseeker related	1,182
New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension	273
Non Beneficiary	153
Sole Parent Support	360
Supported Living Payments related	357
Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	12
Total	2,358

Table Two: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by ethnicity

Ethnic group	Total
Māori	1,662
Pacific Peoples	48
NZ European	477
Other	99
Unspecified	72
Total	2,358

Notes for Table Two:

- Please note the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity.
- Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry.
- The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct.
- While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

Table Three: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by family type

Family type	Total
Married with children	102
Married without children	105
Single with children	579
Single without children	1,569
Total	2,358

Table Four: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by AS area

AS area	Total
Area 3	915
Area 4	1,440

Table Five: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of September 2021 by tenure type

Tenure type	Total
Renting	1,413
Boarding	726
Own Home	219
Total	2,358

Table Six: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of each quarter in 2020 by quarter, number of clients, and total weekly AS rate

As at end of	Number of clients	Total weekly AS rate
March 2020	2,148	\$133,814.00
June 2020	2,274	\$138,963.00
September 2020	2,358	\$145,578.50
December 2020	2,430	\$153,150.00

Table Seven: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at end of each quarter in 2020

As at end of	Family type				Total
	Married with children	Married without children	Single with children	Single without children	
March 2020	99	108	570	1,374	2,14
June 2020	111	114	588	1,464	2,274
September 2020	123	114	600	1,527	2,358
December 2020	117	114	618	1,581	2,430

Table Eight: Clients from the Te Hiku area receiving Accommodation Supplement as at quarter ending December 2019 to September 2021 by quarter

As at end of	Number of clients
December 2019	2,148
March 2020	2,148
June 2020	2,274
September 2020	2,358
December 2020	2,430
March 2021	2,394
June 2021	2,325
September 2021	2,358

Notes for Tables One to Eight:

- The Te Hiku area is defined by Te Hiku 2017 Meshblocks boundaries map. The map has been attached to this response for your information.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- This data table has 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.