



13 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 13 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *On a weekly basis, for the time period of 1st December 2019 to 30th April 2022 with respect to New Zealand citizens and/or permanent residents and/or those who meet the NZ requirements for such benefits excluding work visa holders:*
 - *Number of deaths with respect to superannuation payments and/or sickness benefits and/or unemployment benefits. Can you please state the age of each death with this information.*
 - *The total number of sickness benefits.*
 - *Total number of unemployment benefits.*
 - *With respect to work visa holders who are not normally eligible for NZ benefits, what number of people received benefits in that time period?*

On 26 May 2022, the Ministry advised you that as your request stood, a large amount of data would be suppressed to protect the privacy of individuals. This is to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. You responded that you would like to change your request to be for every two weeks for the younger age groups in order to avoid a heavily suppressed dataset.

The Supported Living Payment (SLP) is a weekly payment to assist clients who have or are caring for someone with a significant health condition, injury, or disability, such that they are not likely to be able to work 15 hours of more per week within the next two years. In most cases, the decision to grant SLP is based on a work capacity assessment by a registered health practitioner. However, some clients with a specific diagnosis can access SLP without having a detailed assessment of their capacity to work (e.g., clients who are totally blind or terminally ill). More information about the Supported Living Payment can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html.

Jobseeker Support is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work, or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. More information about the Jobseeker Support can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html#null.

A person with a health condition or disability may be entitled to further assistance from Work and Income. You can find more information about health and disability- related assistance here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-related-benefits.html.

New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) provides a retirement income for clients who have reached 65 years of age. More information about the NZS can be found here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/index.html.

For the sake of clarity, your requests have been addressed in turn.

- *Number of deaths with respect to superannuation payments and/or sickness benefits and/or unemployment benefits. Can you please state the age of each death with this information.*

Please find enclosed, an Excel spreadsheet containing the following tables:

- **Table One:** Number of cancellations for reason of death for New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension aged 65 years and older for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by week.
- **Table Two:** Number of cancellations for reason of death for New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension clients aged 18 years and older for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.
- **Table Three:** Number of cancellations for reason of death for Job Seeker Health Condition & Disability (JS HC & D), Jobseeker Support Work Ready clients aged 18 years and older for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.
- **Table Four:** Number of cancellations for reason of death for Supported Living Payment clients aged 18 years and older for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.

For Tables Two, Three and Four, the Ministry has provided you with a breakdown by month as the data would otherwise be heavily suppressed and unhelpful to you. The information would be suppressed under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Prior to 9 November 2020, clients in receipt of NZS with a partner/spouse who did not qualify for NZS in their own right could include them in their payments as a non-qualified spouse/partner. This was provided they met the relevant criteria.

From 9 November 2020, clients who qualify for NZS in their own right can no longer apply to include their non-qualified partner in their payments. Couples already receiving the non-qualified partner rate of NZS as at 8 November 2020 were entitled to grandparenting of their payments effective from 9 November 2020. More information about this can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/new-zealand-superannuation/grandparenting-non-qualified-partner-couples-01.html.

- *The total number of sickness benefits.*
- *Total number of unemployment benefits.*

Please find enclosed, an Excel spreadsheet containing the following tables:

- **Table Five:** Current working age clients on Jobseeker Support Work Ready related for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.
- **Table Six:** Current working age clients on Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability (HC&D) related for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.
- **Table Seven:** Current working age clients on Supported Living Payment (SLP) related for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022, broken down by month.
 - *With respect to work visa holders who are not normally eligible for NZ benefits, what number of people received benefits in that time period?*

Please find enclosed, an Excel spreadsheet containing the following table:

- **Table Eight:** Number of Emergency Benefit grants for Temp Visa Holders for the period 1 December 2019 to 30 April 2022

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 for information about various benefits administered 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

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