



25 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 27 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *"The numbers of people moving to the Bay of Plenty (and out) and what kinds of financial aid they can get to do so for work.*

I am aware of the 5k to move regions for work but was wondering if there were any other options specifically for moving between regions?

May I please request some data around the number of people applying for this both from within the Bay of Plenty and heading to the Bay of Plenty? Town specific if possible, and for the last five years. Would be great to have where people are coming from as well. Would also appreciate data that shows what kinds of jobs people are moving for as well, and ages of people moving."

The Ministry provides a range of financial support to assist clients to move to other regions. These include Transition to Work (TTW) grant, \$5k to Work and New Zealand Seasonal Work Scheme (NZSWS). The Bay of Plenty region is one of the Ministry's key seasonal labour regions. Many clients who move to the Bay of Plenty on a regular basis are supported with NZSWS. The TTW grant helps people to cover the costs of searching for, entering, or retaining employment.

\$5K to Work is a labour mobility assistance programme, provided in the form of a one-off lump sum incentive payment for individuals to relocate to take up a confirmed offer of full-time employment for 91 days or longer in another region. It is intended to incentivise people to relocate to take up work in another region. Originally, \$5K to Work was established as \$3K to Christchurch to incentivise people to move to Christchurch (where there was a labour shortage) to support the post-earthquake rebuild.

You have asked for information on where people who receive \$5K to Work and move to the Bay of Plenty originate from, and the location where people from Bay of Plenty who receive \$5K to Work move to. I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

We are however able to provide data on \$5K to Work and \$3K to Work for the last five years broken down by employment sector, and age group.

Please see two tables in the attached Excel spreadsheet. Table 1 shows the number of \$5K to Work and \$3K to Work grants for the last five financial years, between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2022, broken down by employment sector, and Table 2 shows the number of \$5K to Work and \$3K to Work Grants that have been granted between 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022, broken down by financial year and age group.

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

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Manager Issues Resolution
Service Delivery