



21 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:

- 1. Could I please have Tables Three and Six below that were provided in this [March 2021 Ministry of Social Development OIA response](#) updated with the latest figures*
- 2. Could I please have figures for Accommodation Supplement recipients by whether they have paid employment and whether they do not have such employment?*
- 3. Could I please have figures for the number of years family clients have been receiving the Accommodation Supplement, and if possible the average duration of receiving the Supplement?*

For the sake of clarity, I will address your questions in turn.

- 1. Could I please have Tables Three and Six below that were provided in this [March 2021 Ministry of Social Development OIA response](#) updated with the latest figures*

Please find enclosed in **Appendix One, Table One** and **Table Two** which outlines the updated numbers of current clients and dependent children receiving Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of March 2022, broken down by service type and by family compositions.

2. *Could I please have figures for Accommodation Supplement recipients by whether they have paid employment and whether they do not have such employment?*

Please find enclosed in **Appendix One, Table Three** which outlines the number of current clients and dependent children receiving Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of March 2022, by whether client had earnings.

3. *Could I please have figures for the number of years family clients have been receiving the Accommodation Supplement, and if possible the average duration of receiving the Supplement?*

In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. 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 requests 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.

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 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 Accommodation Supplement recipients, 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  
**Issues Resolution  
Manager**

**Appendix One.**

**Table One: Number of current clients and dependent children receiving Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of March 2022, broken down by service type.**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Clients</b>	<b>Children</b>
Emergency Benefit	2,823	366
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	390	639
Job Seeker	125,352	23,049
Job Seeker Student Hardship	42	12
New Zealand Superannuation	47,685	405
Non Beneficiary	71,472	76,746
Sole Parent Support	49,914	96,501
Supported Living Payment	48,219	9,780
Veteran's Pension	252	0
Youth/Young Parent Payment	1,521	666
<b>Total</b>	<b>347,670</b>	<b>208,164</b>

**Table Two: Number of current clients and dependent children receiving Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of March 2022, broken down by family composition.**

<b>Family Composition</b>	<b>Clients</b>	<b>Children</b>
Couple, 1 child	8,445	8,445
Couple, 2 or more children	16,083	43,470
Couple, no children	22,776	0
Single, no children	213,216	0
Sole parent, 1 child	42,153	42,153
Sole parent, 2 or more children	44,997	114,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>347,670</b>	<b>208,164</b>

**Table Three: Number of current clients and dependent children receiving Accommodation Supplement, as at the end of March 2022, by whether client had earnings.**

**Note for Table Three:**

This table excludes New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension which are not generally subject to an income test.

<b>Client had earnings</b>	<b>Clients</b>	<b>Children</b>
No	214,611	116,832
Yes	85,119	90,927
<b>Total</b>	<b>299,733</b>	<b>207,759</b>

**Notes for Tables One, Two and Three:**

- 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.
- 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 2 counts.