



31 March 2022

Tēnā koe

On 31 January 2022, you submitted a form to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Ministry's assistance in response to the 15 March 2019 mosque shooting.

I apologise profusely for the fact that the original request you made on 31 January 2022 was lost.

On 9 March 2022, the Ministry phoned you to advise that your request was received, however, further clarification was required. You clarified that your request was for a breakdown of who was eligible for assistance related to the 15 March attacks.

You also clarified that by 'category', you meant category of how one was affected by the attacks, such as 'injured by bullet', 'witness', and 'victim support'.

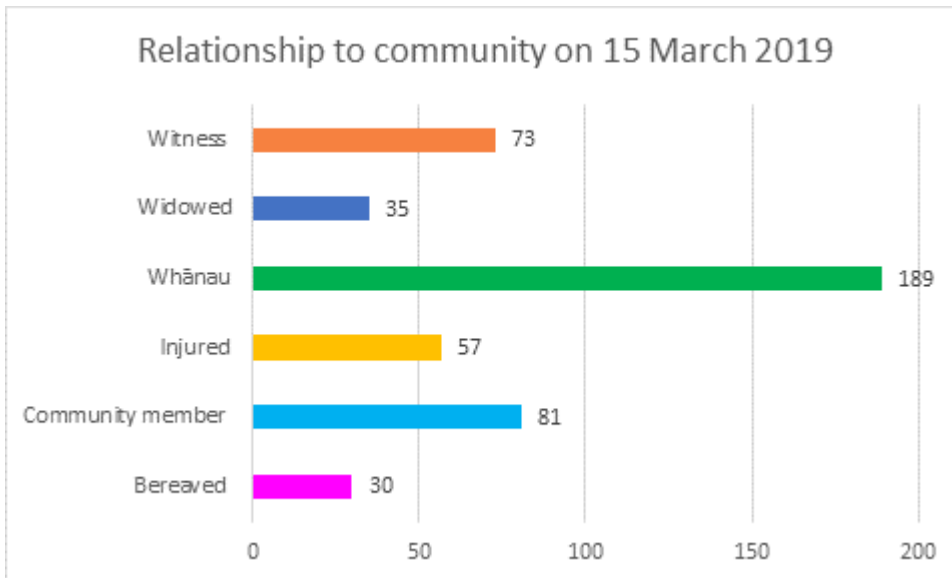
For the sake of clarity, your questions are answered in turn below.

- *A breakdown of who received what and what category they belong to from March 15, 2019 to the present, per month and per year; I am not looking for names, but figures and percentages. What classification do they assign to people?*

The Ministry set up the Kaiwhakaoranga Specialist Case Management Service in April 2019 to provide wrap around support services to the community affected by the 15 March 2019 mosque attacks. The team provides one point of contact and facilitates access to services across a range of government agencies and non-government organisations. The Kaiwhakaoranga specialist case managers can help people, even if they are not Ministry clients, receive support with employment, financial assistance, immigration, social support and other needs.

Please see **Table One** below showing the number of people who are receiving assistance through the Ministry's Kaiwhakaoranga Specialist Case Management Service, broken down by their relationship to the 15 March 2019 attack.

Table One: Number of people who are receiving assistance through the Ministry's Kaiwhakaoranga Specialist Case Management Service, broken down by their relationship to the 15 March 2019 attack.



Notes for **Table One:**

- The Ministry has never held the official police list identifying how people were impacted by the 15 March 2019 attack, and the individual's relationship to the community reported here is self-reported.
- The 'injured' category includes those who were bullet injured and those who sustained injuries when they were fleeing the scene. There were officially 40 bullet wounded people from the media coverage in relation to the court hearings, however 57 people are being case managed who have told us they were injured.

For more information regarding the Kaiwhakaoranga Service, please see the following link:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/ongoing-support/index.html.

The Ministry's Christchurch mosques attack payment is also available for those who were affected by the 15 March 2019 attacks and are not earning

enough income to support themselves and their family. For more information on this payment and its eligibility, please see the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/christchurch-mosques-attack-payment.html.

Please see **Table Two** in the **Appendix** which shows the approximate payments made for the Christchurch Mosque Attacks Welfare Programme to the end of February 2022, broken down by month. Unfortunately, this data cannot be broken down into categories showing the relationship recipients have to the 15 March 2019 attack, as this information is not held. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry.

- *Who is eligible for driver's licence help, and has this altered since the Christchurch Mosque Program began?*

I can advise that 123 referrals to driving lessons (bespoke funded programme) have been made since mid 2019, of which 25 did not meet the eligibility criteria.

The Ministry offers financial assistance to attend courses for short-term, employment related training courses or programmes, such as driving school. Course Participation Assistance (CPA) can help clients gain specific employment skills.

Courses are generally for 12 weeks or less, and must meet the following criteria:

- Supplied by a provider who has a contract with Work and Income, or
- Approved by Work and Income, or
- Matched to a specific vacancy, or
- Specifically recognised alongside a Skills for Industry initiative, or
- An Intensive Literacy and Numeracy programme or Targeted ESOL programme contracted by the Tertiary Education Commission.

To be eligible to receive CPA, you must:

- Be attending a short-term employment related course or programme, and
- Have specific costs because of your participation in a course or programme
- Have income under the income limit (including partner's income)
- Have cash assets under the cash assets limit (including partner's and shared cash assets).

If the course is 13 weeks or less, you can get assistance for education and employment-related training course fees if you:

- Are on a benefit or stand-down for a benefit
- Are attending an approved course
- Have extra costs because of the course.

Eligibility for assistance may also depend on:

- How much you and your partner earn
- Any money or assets you and your partner have.

Clients who are eligible for CPA will still receive their benefit and other payments and allowances.

If you are not eligible for CPA, but you were directly affected by the mosque attacks and need a driving lesson because your circumstances have significantly changed due to the attacks, the Ministry may also be able to help you. For example, if the only person in your family who could drive is no longer able to drive due to the attacks, the Ministry can help you get your licence. For more information on this support, please see the attached factsheet.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Ministry assistance to those affected by the 15 March 2019 attacks, 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

Table Two: Approximate payments made for the Christchurch Mosque Attacks Welfare Programme to the end of February 2022, broken down by month.

Month Ending	Amount Paid
June 2019	\$40,925
July 2019	\$79,784
August 2019	\$101,596
September 2019	\$72,544
October 2019	\$57,206
November 2019	\$71,739
December 2019	\$56,270
January 2020	\$59,664
February 2020	\$37,283
March 2020	\$36,645
April 2020	\$40,499
May 2020	\$60,533
June 2020	\$45,343
July 2020	\$52,035
August 2020	\$35,571
September 2020	\$33,404
October 2020	\$29,382
November 2020	\$21,716
December 2020	\$22,368
January 2021	\$28,513
February 2021	\$21,223
March 2021	\$19,578
April 2021	\$24,152
May 2021	\$18,936
June 2021	\$22,021
July 2021	\$27,380
August 2021	\$21,368
September 2021	\$29,710
October 2021	\$37,263
November 2021	\$27,001
December 2021	\$24,942
January 2022	\$18,603
February 2022	\$20,677
Total Amount	\$1,295,874

Notes for **Table Two**:

- This table only contains supplementary grants for Christchurch Mosque Attacks Welfare Programme to the end of February 2022.
- Over time the number of clients and grant types identified as receiving assistance under this program have increased slightly.
- Therefore, this data does not agree completely with previously reported figures.