

13 September 2022

Tēnā koe

On 1 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many students have received a Jobseeker Support Student Hardship benefit from 15.7.13 to 1.8.22? I would like this broken down into years, and the areas/educators if possible. I would also like to know how many people applied for one but were denied.*

On 11 August 2022, the Ministry emailed you to refine your request as we are unable to report of the locations of education providers. As such, the Ministry recommended requesting the same information but broken down by Ministry regions.

On 18 August 2022, you replied to the refinement email with your updated request: "I would like to know how many students have received a Jobseeker Support Student Hardship benefit from 15.7.13 to 1.8.22. I would like this broken down into years, and MSD regions if possible. I would also like to know how many people applied for one but were denied".'

Jobseeker Support Student Hardship provides income support for a full-time student who does not have employment during vacation periods.

When a student has the intention to enrol in the next academic year or actually enrolls in a full-time course they will then be regarded as a full-time student. More information can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/students/jobseeker-support-student-hardship/index.html

Please see in the attached Excel Spreadsheet, **Appendix** containing **Table One** outlining the number of clients granted Jobseeker Support Student Hardship for the period 15 July 2013 to 30 June 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 regarding the amount of Jobseeker Support Student Hardship granted and declined, 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 Resolutions
Service Delivery**