



5 April 2023

Tēnā koe

On 23 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am looking for the statistics around number of caregivers receiving UCB and OB and the number of children for whom it is paid. As part of another Group that I am on I received some very interesting stats including ethnicity but was surprised as you had said you don't gather the ethnicities of the children so I am not sure I trust it too much.*

*Would be very helpful information for the panel to have on a regular basis as well.*

On 23 March 2023, the Ministry emailed you to advise you that the Ministry required more time to respond to this request. In accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act, the Ministry informed you that a decision would be with you no later than 6 April 2023. The reason for the extension is that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The **Appendix** provides you with **Tables One** to **Table Three** showing the number of caregivers receiving an Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit, the number of children included in an Unsupported Child's Benefit or Orphan's Benefit, and the number of caregivers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit and Orphan's Benefit by total response ethnicity.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> All data provided in Tables One to Table Three is as-at 28 February 2023.

- 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 about the number of caregivers receiving, and children included in, an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit are 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  
**Manager Issue Resolution**  
**Service Delivery**

## Appendix

**Table One: The number of caregivers receiving Unsupported Child's Benefit and Orphan's Benefit as at 28 February 2023**

<b>As at month ending</b>	<b>Orphan's Benefit</b>	<b>Unsupported Child's Benefit</b>	<b>Total</b>
February 2023	252	12,915	13,164

**Table Two: The number of children included in an Unsupported Child's Benefit or Orphan's Benefit as at 28 February 2023**

<b>As at month ending</b>	<b>Orphan's Benefit</b>	<b>Unsupported Child's Benefit</b>	<b>Total</b>
February 2023	357	19,497	19,854

**Table Three: The number of caregivers receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit and Orphan's Benefit as at 28 February 2023, by total response ethnicity**

<b>Caregiver Total Response Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of caregivers</b>
European	5,781
Māori	6,825
Pacific Peoples	1,191
Asian	138
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	42
Other ethnicity	177
<b>Total recipients with recorded ethnicity</b>	<b>12,525</b>
Not specified	642
<b>Total recipients</b>	<b>13,164</b>

**Notes:**

The Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit provide an income top up to the caregiver of a child whose parents can't support them.

The Ministry does not record the ethnicity of dependent children.

These benefit types can be paid to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.

Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.

'Unknown' is where ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other' is where ethnicities fall outside the reported ethnicities.

**Confidentiality:**

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.

Random rounding does not round down to zero. A value of one or two will be rounded to 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 two counts.