



9 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 17 July 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A breakdown of Ministry clients in the Palmerston North TLA, by whether they hold a Community Services Card, a Super Gold Card, or have a disability.*

The Community Services Card is available to low- or middle-income earners to enable them and their family to access subsidised health services. Community Services Card holders can also get a 50% discount on public transport fares for themselves.

The SuperGold Card is a discount and concession card for all New Zealanders aged 65 and over, and those who qualify for New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension. It provides access to government concessions and discounts for everyday goods and services.

New Zealand Superannuation clients must meet the income test to qualify for a Community Services Card unless they are:

- Getting an Accommodation Supplement or
- Are tenants of public housing or
- Their partner is receiving an income-tested benefit

More information about the Community Services Card and the SuperGold Card can be found at the following links:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html
- www.supergold.govt.nz/
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/community-services-card-and-supergold-card.html.

Please see find **Table One** in below **Appendix** which contains a breakdown of Community Services Card holders and Super Gold Card holders in the Palmerston North Territorial Local Authority as at 30 June 2023, by card type, age group and whether they receive a Disability Allowance.

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 Ministry clients in Palmerston North, 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



Table One: The number of Community Service Card and Super Gold Card holders in the Palmerston North Territorial Local Authority as at 30 June 2023, broken down by card type, age group and whether they are receiving a Disability Allowance

Has disability allowance	No card		SuperGold Card or Super Gold Card plus Community Services Card			Community Services Card Only		Total
	16 - 64 years	65 plus	unknown age	16 - 64 years	65 plus	16 - 64 years	65 plus	
No disability allowance	0	0	3	117	11,733	10,662	9	22,524
Disability allowance	27	30	0	18	2,466	2,199	3	4,740
Total	27	30	3	135	14,199	12,861	9	27,264

Notes for Table One:

- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the client’s address at the time of the card’s issue.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.