



16 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 29 June 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Below are statistics of what we had from 2020. It would be really insightful to see a comparison between the times.

Youth Unemployment MSD Statistics show that of the 500 youth (18-24 year old's) seeking employment in the South Waikato:

- *5% have a restricted license*
- *3% have a full license,*
- *approximately 10% are thought to have their learners license.*
- *National Statistics have 15% of youth holding a restricted and 9% holding a full license.*
- *The learner's license holders are not accurately measured because the minimum requirement of most jobs is a restricted license; a learner's license holds no value in terms of employability.*
- *approximately 82% of South Waikato Youth Job Seekers don't hold a licence.*
- *MSD does pay for longer term unemployed youth to access drivers licensing through Moving - Mountains and Transform Aotearoa in order to make them more employable.*

If you are able to help with updating these stats, that would be amazing.

On 11 July 2023, the Ministry contacted you and requested a refinement of your request in order to assist us in providing you with the information you were seeking.

As the Ministry had not received a response from you regarding the refinement request, you were contacted on 27 July 2023 to discuss your request.

We then clarified your request to:

- *The number of clients (aged 18-24) on Jobseeker Support that have received funding for their new driver's licence since 2020 for South Waikato District.*

On 28 July 2023, you were contacted again by the Ministry to advise that more time was required to respond to your request as consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response could not be made within the original time limit. The Ministry advised you that a decision will be with you no later than 18 August 2023.

The Ministry, through Work and Income, provides assistance to help New Zealanders towards getting their driving licence. Recoverable assistance is available to help people with the cost of the Drivers test. You can find more information about the qualifications on the Ministry's website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/driver-licence-01.html.

More information about recoverable assistance can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/qualifications.html.

Further information about financial assistance and eligibility can be found on the Work and Income website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html.

Please refer to **Table One** in the attached **Appendix** which shows the number of hardship grants for Drivers Licence - New for South Waikato District Local Authority during the period 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2023 broken down by year and age group.

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 driver's license assistance in South Waikato, 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 One: The number of hardship grants for Drivers Licence – New for South Waikato District Local Authority during the period 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2023 broken down by year and age group.

Calendar Year	Age Group	
	18-19	20-24
2020	6	9
2021	15	24
2022	3	12
*2023 (30 June 2023)	3	6
Total	24	51

Notes:

- This is a count of grants, not clients and the same client may have been granted more than once.
- This table includes clients on Jobseeker Support and aged 18 to 24 years only.
- Age is based on the clients age as at the time of the grant. Because this is a count of grants, the same client can appear more than once across multiple age groups.
- The table includes the hardship reason Drivers Licence - New only. It does not include the hardship reason Drivers Licence - Renewal which is granted as a separate hardship.
- Territorial local authority is estimated based on the clients address.
- 2023 is partial calendar year as it only includes January to June.
- 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.
- 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.