



17 August 2023

Tēnā koe

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

- *is concerned about the Social Security Act When it comes to children's Needs & Wellbeing where needs are not met Through Work and Income. I request all info regarding children's needs & wellbeing concerning Parents And Court Orders, Which have to be meet or in breach.*

On 19 July 2023, the Ministry attempted to clarify your request, as it was unclear what information you were looking for. On 21 August 2023, you responded with a clarified request, as follows:

- *I am requesting what support a parent can receive through work and income when the parent is on JS support and looks after their children part time through court orders through the family court, When The parent has financial hardship with children with needs so they don't breach orders to do with the court. Basically support to do with Parents And Children through work and income, that is all support The link is from the Social Security Act 1991 which has not been reviewed as stated 28% or more which equals 102 days through IRD unless governor general reviews special circumstances.*

Parents can receive financial support from the Ministry including main benefits and supplementary assistance, as long as they meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

For more information on main benefits, please see the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/index.html

For more information on supplementary assistance, please see the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/index.html

When parents are in a shared care situation and both apply for a main benefit, a sole parent rate can only be paid to the principal caregiver of the child. The following link provides information on what defines a shared care situation:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/sole-parent-support/shared-care.html

This also applies to the following forms of assistance:

- [Child Disability Allowance](#)
- [Childcare Subsidy](#)
- [OSCAR Subsidy](#)
- [Winter Energy Payment](#)
- [Community Services Card](#)
- [Public Housing eligibility](#)
- [Income Related Rent](#)

Family Tax Credit and Best Start Tax Credit are Inland Revenue products that can be paid alongside a person's main benefit. In specific circumstances, these tax credits can be paid to both parents in a shared care arrangement:

- [Family Tax Credit](#)
- [Best Start Tax Credit](#)

Student Allowance is available to student couples with a supported child. A supported child can be included in two parents' student allowance if the child spends 50% of the time with each parent **and** both parents share responsibility for the wellbeing and financial support of the child:

- [Student Allowance](#)

People can contact Work and Income on 0800 559 009 or Studylink on 0800 889 900 to make an appointment at their local Work and Income Service Centre. A staff member will be able to assess each person's circumstances and check their entitlement. Our call centre operates from 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 1pm on Saturday. People can also check what assistance they might be eligible for through Work and Income any time via the "Check what you might get" function on our website here: check.msd.govt.nz/.

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 financial support for parents in shared care situations, 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



Ailee Gray
Director
Operational Policy