



31 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many people who have received a \$5k to work grant for the period November 2021 to November 2022 have since had a main benefit granted?*

The \$5K to Work grant is an incentive payment to assist clients to relocate when they have secured sustainable employment. The job offer must be far enough from the client's current residence that commuting to work would be financially impractical and that without locating, the job seeker would be financially disadvantaged by taking up the employment. It is expected that people who receive the \$5K to Work payment would have their accommodation arranged prior to relocation.

The recipient does not have to be receiving a main benefit from Work and Income but does need to meet the eligibility for a main benefit, for example, Jobseeker Support.

The \$5K to Work payment must be repaid if:

- A client reapplies for a main benefit or returns to study within 91 days of the job start date
- The client left their job without good and sufficient reason, or
- The client did not use the payment for the reason it was paid to them, e.g., securing sustainable employment and relocating.

When it is identified that a Work and Income client would benefit from assistance to relocate, staff will proactively advise clients that they may be entitled to the \$5K to Work payment. More information about this payment can be found on the Work and Income website, here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html.

Please refer to the **Appendix** below for the following tables:

- **Table One:** Total number of \$5K to Work grants for the period November 2021 to November 2022.
- **Table Two:** Number of subsequent main benefits granted or not granted following a \$5K to Work Grant in the period November 2021 to November 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 \$5K to Work grants, 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 Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix

Table One: Total number of \$5K to Work grants for the period November 2021 to November 2022.

Month	Number of \$5K to Work grants
November 2021	360
December 2021	408
January 2022	555
February 2022	534
March 2022	432
April 2022	321
May 2022	393
June 2022	363
July 2022	357
August 2022	345
September 2022	339
October 2022	258
November 2022	303
Total	4,971

Table Two: Number of subsequent main benefits granted or not granted following a \$5K to Work Grant in the period November 2021 to November 2022.

Month	Time to subsequent benefit granted				Total with subsequent benefit grant	No main benefit granted in period
	< 3 months	> 3-6 months	> 6-12 months	> 1 year		
November 2021	45	51	51	33	180	180
December 2021	51	48	42	30	171	237
January 2022	42	57	57	27	183	369
February 2022	48	72	66	42	228	306
March 2022	60	69	63	27	219	210
April 2022	51	48	39	15	153	168
May 2022	63	54	51	21	189	204
June 2022	42	51	63	6	162	201
July 2022	48	57	51	3	162	195

Month	Time to subsequent benefit granted				Total with subsequent benefit grant	No main benefit granted in period
	< 3 months	> 3-6 months	> 6-12 months	> 1 year		
August 2022	36	51	48	0	138	210
September 2022	45	39	57	0	141	198
October 2022	42	48	36	0	126	135
November 2022	39	51	27	0	114	189
Total	609	699	654	210	2,172	2,799

Table notes:

- \$5K to Work is an 'incentive payment' to assist clients who have secured sustainable employment to relocate.
- The \$5K to Work payment is a non-taxable payment of \$5,000 and is not asset or income based.
- As of 1 October 2020, \$5K to Work grant came into effect.
- From 1 October 2020 the \$3K to Work grant is now \$5K to Work. This incentive payment has increased from \$3K to \$5K.
- This table only included \$5K to Work as payments for \$3K to Work ceased from 1 October 2020.
- Only the period to the first main benefit granted after the first \$5K to Work grant per client is counted here. Grants after any subsequent \$5K to Work grants are not included.
- Main benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry used 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 published counts will never differ by more than two counts.