



7 February 2023

Tēnā koe

On 20 December 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Could you please provide a breakdown of the number and value (\$) of Special Needs Grants (SNGs) issued by the Wairarapa Community Link for the quarter ending 31 Dec 2022?*
- *Can this data please be provided per SNG category as per previous requests?*

Please see **Appendix One** containing **Table One**, which shows the number and amount granted for Special Needs Grants (SNGs) from the Wairarapa Service Centre for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, broken down by need reason.

You will note some of your requested need reasons do not appear in the table. This is because the Ministry did not receive any applications under that need reason category during the quarter.

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

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 SNGs issued by the Wairarapa Community Link, 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 One

Table One: The number and amount granted for Special Needs Grants from the Wairarapa Service Centre for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Need Reason	Grants	Amount Granted
Ambulance Fees (Non Subscription)	3	\$196.00
Assistance during an initial stand down and/or application process	30	\$4,634.56
Bedding SNG	9	\$855.00
Dental Treatment Advance	3	\$780.00
Dental Treatment SNG	108	\$48,434.82
Drivers Licence New	24	\$2,811.30
Drivers Licence Renewal	9	\$351.20
Emergency Housing	3	\$2,140.00
Emergency Medical Treatment (fees)	9	\$614.00
Emergency Medical Treatment (prescription charges)	3	\$535.00
Food	849	\$99,891.87
HSP Bond Grant	6	\$7,320.00
HSP Rent Arrears	3	\$1,741.57
HSP Transition to Alternative Housing Grant	3	\$3,000.00
Health Travel Costs Client Only (Non-Recoverable)	9	\$1,060.00
Health Travel Costs Client Only (Recoverable)	6	\$1,017.00
New Employment Transition Payment	3	\$400.00
Other Emergency Grants	12	\$2,233.00
Re-establishment Refugee (Other)	24	\$15,320.82
Steps to freedom	6	\$1,977.05
Student Allowance Transfer Grant	6	\$2,206.89
Water Tank Refill	3	\$335.00
Total	1,116	\$197,855.08

Notes:

- This is a count of grants not clients. A client may have multiple grants in a period.
- The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Service centre is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending Case Manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- HSP stands for Housing Support Product.

- The need reasons logged under the 'Other Emergency Grants' category varies for each quarter. These include, but are not limited to, additional health costs, replacement cell phones, unexpected petrol costs.
 - 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.
 - The numbers one and two will always 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.
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