



10 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 January 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I would like to have data about family violence in this region

On 9 February 2023, the Ministry contacted you to discuss your request and have clarified the information that the Ministry is able to provide which would be more helpful to you.

We have clarified your request to:

- *Has the Ministry provided financial assistance in relation to family violence/harm.*
- *If so, how many grants, by category have been made in the Nelson Region, since 2019 to 2022.*

The Ministry is committed to reducing family violence and keeping all victims of family violence safe. It provides a range of services and programmes to help strengthen New Zealand families and communities to enable them to live without violence and fear.

The Ministry's Family Violence Response Coordinators (FVRC) and Case Managers provide support and work with clients experiencing family violence, to help and/or allow victims to leave harmful family situations without losing financial support.

The role of the FVRC and Case Managers is to:

- Provide advice and support to Case Managers on family violence cases
- Provide up to date information on local family violence services
- Provide up to date resources for Case Managers
- Ensuring continuous improvement and learning through development and delivery of the Family Violence Intervention Programme (FVIP)
- Build relationships with other agencies to better support our Case Managers and clients

- Be a liaison and referral point between agencies and Work and Income
- Co-ordinate and monitor FVIP at a site and regional level
- Review complex Unsupported Child Benefit (UCB) applications.

The Ministry can offer financial assistance through hardship grants to clients who are victims of family violence. Each client is assessed by the Ministry based on their needs and entitlements. You may find the links below to the Work and Income website helpful:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/family-violence-sole-parents.html
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/client-qualifies-for-and-is-getting-the-special-needs-grant-family-violence-programme.html

To read more about the re-establishment grant, please see the following website:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/re-establishment-grant.html

Please refer to the table below, which shows the number of grants made for family violence in Nelson, broken down by hardship grant type for the years 2019 to 2022.

Table One: Number of grants made for family violence in Nelson, broken down by hardship grant type for the years 2019 to 2022.

	Domestic Violence	Re-establishment Sole Parent (Accommodation)	Re-establishment Sole Parent (Other)	Total
2019	9	0	6	15
2020	0	3	3	6
2021	0	3	3	3
2022	0	0	3	3

Notes:

- Family Violence assistance is based on hardship grants for:
 - Domestic Violence
 - Re-establishment Sole Parent (Accommodation)
 - Re-establishment Sole Parent (Other)
- 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 published counts will never differ by more than two counts

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 about assistance provided by the Ministry in relation to family violence/harm, 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**