



22 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 25 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Could I please have the average and median payment rate for the Disability Allowance for the following groups:*
 - *Children/young people under 18 by gender and ethnicity*
 - *People aged 18 to 64 by gender and ethnicity*
 - *People aged 65+ by gender and ethnicity*
 - *Could I please have this data by quarter from the quarter ending June 2020 to the latest quarter available?*

Disability Allowance (DA) provides non-taxable assistance to people who have on-going, additional costs because of a disability. DA provides assistance for a number of costs, including the ongoing costs of consumable items needed by a person because of a disability or a health condition.

The amount paid to each client is estimated in relation to the actual annual costs that have been, or will be, incurred on a regular basis and is paid weekly. Every DA application is assessed based on the guidelines available on the Work and Income website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/qualifications.html

DA cannot be paid for one-off costs, such as buying a computer, nebuliser, or blood glucose monitor. Ongoing costs, such as glucose monitoring strips, also cannot be paid for under DA as these items are funded, subsidised, and provided through other government agencies.

As at 1 April 2022, Work and Income pays up to a maximum of \$70.04 a week for a DA. The amount a client receives depends on the extra costs that client has because of their disability. As a part of the application for DA, clients are required to provide a Disability Certificate form, which is completed by a health practitioner, along with proof of their on-going

disability-related costs (e.g., pharmacy and medical receipts and invoices, electricity bills, petrol receipts).

A client is required to advise Work and Income of any changes in their circumstances that might affect their entitlement to a DA. Furthermore, a Case Manager may also review a DA at any time to ensure a client is receiving the correct rate of payment.

You can read more about the Disability Allowance at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/disability-allowance.html.

Please find the attached **Appendix** which contains the following tables:

- **Table One:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged under 18 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by gender
- **Table Two:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged 18 to 64 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by gender
- **Table Three:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged over 65 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by gender
- **Table Four:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged under 18 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by ethnicity
- **Table Five:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged 18 to 64 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by ethnicity
- **Table Six:** The average and median payment rate of Disability Allowance for people aged over 65 for the quarter ending June 2020 to the quarter ending December 2022, broken down by ethnicity

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 Disability Allowance, 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**