



16 May 2023

Tēnā koe

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

*Official Information Act Request: Jobseeker Support Numbers by Specific Age*

*Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act: a breakdown of Jobseeker Support -Work Ready recipients for the December 2022 quarter by age.*

*Please provide the information by each individual age (18 years old, 19 years old, etc) rather than as an age range (18-24 etc).*

Then subsequently on that same day, you requested the following information:

*Official Information Act Request: Jobseeker Support -Work Ready recipients by reason for unemployment*

*Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act: a breakdown of Jobseeker Support -Work Ready recipients for the December 2022 quarter by the reason provided for applying for the Jobseeker support benefit (withdrawing from paid employment, withdrawing from study, completing secondary school, etc as recorded by MSD).*

*Please provide the information by age breakdown if possible.*

Jobseeker Support (JS) is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. Jobseeker 'Work Ready' grants, however, refer solely to those JS clients who are available for and seeking full-time employment.

More information about the eligibility criteria for Jobseeker Support can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/qualifications.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/qualifications.html).

We have merged your two requests and are providing you with the number of Jobseeker Support Work Ready grants approved between 1 October 2022 and 31 December 2022, broken down by grant-reason and age. Please see the attached **Appendix**.

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 where, values have been randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3. This is applied to all cell counts in the table. 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.

Please note, the 'Reason for Grants' recorded for a grant is the recorded reason that the client applied and does not necessarily impact the client's application for Jobseeker Support. Rather, applications are approved if they meet the eligibility criteria, which is based on family circumstances and residential status. When a client begins the application process, the reason for grant is recorded by a Case Manager to help ensure that the client is applying for the most appropriate financial assistance based on his or her (i.e., the client's) circumstances.

Furthermore, please note that only one reason for grant can be recorded per client. However, multiple grant reasons may apply to an individual case. The most relevant reason for grant, as determined by the Case Manager, is chosen.

To situate the information that you have requested in its broader context, we are also including a link to the Ministry's publicly available website which provides commentary and data for our Monthly Benefit Update: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/monthly-reporting/](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/monthly-reporting/)

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response about the reasons for Jobseeker Support 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

*Bridget Saunders*

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager Issue Resolution  
Service Delivery**