



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

4 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 6 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am writing to ask for statistics and or information on the following:*

- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty as a region and Rotorua as an area / town*
- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty who are identified as Māori*
- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty who have identified which iwi and hapu they are from*

Please note, as you have not specified a timeframe for your request, the Ministry has interpreted the timeframe to be for the most recent data as at end of June quarter 2023.

The Ministry, through Work and Income, provides recoverable and non-recoverable financial assistance to help people meet an immediate need for essential items such as food, health costs, power, and other costs.

These payments are available to any person if they meet the income and asset test, and they are unable to meet the cost for an essential need from any other source.

Work and Income ensures that people receive their correct entitlement to any other financial assistance as part of the application and assessment process and assists people to manage their costs in the longer term, not just with immediate and urgent assistance. It is important to understand why the client cannot meet these costs, to provide the most appropriate form of assistance.

More 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](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/index.html). Main benefits the Ministry administers include:

- Emergency Benefit – an income and asset tested benefit payable to people in hardship and who are unable to earn enough for themselves, and any dependent family, and cannot receive another benefit.
- Emergency Maintenance Allowance – a form of Emergency Benefit which provides income support for sole parents with one or more dependent children if they do not meet the specific criteria for Sole Parent Support or Young Parent Payment, and they cannot receive any other benefit.
- Jobseeker Support – a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or are unable to work due to a health condition, injury, or disability.
- Jobseeker Student Hardship – income support for full-time students who do not have employment during vacation periods.
- Sole Parent Support - income support for sole parents with one or more dependent children.
- Supported Living Payment – for people who are unable to work because they are permanently and severely restricted in their capacity for work due to a health condition, injury, disability, being totally blind, or needing to care full-time for a person at home.
- Youth Payment – for young people who have no dependent children and are not being supported by their parents, or they are/have been married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship.
- Young Parent Payment – for young people who have a dependent child or children and are single or are/have been married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship.

In the interest of clarity, parts of your request will be responded to separately.

- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty who are identified as Māori*

Please refer to the following tables in the attached **Appendix** in response to part two of your request.

**Table One:** The current working age main benefit clients in the Bay of Plenty region who identify as Māori as at the end of quarter June 2023, broken down by whether or not they have identified an iwi affiliation.

**Table Two:** The current working age main benefits clients in Rotorua District Territorial Authority area who identify as Māori as at the end of quarter June 2023, broken down by whether or not they have identified an iwi affiliation.

- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty as a region and Rotorua as an area / town*
- *Numbers of those on income support / beneficiaries in the Bay of Plenty who have identified which iwi and hapu they are from*

Please refer to the following tables in the attached **Appendix** in response to parts one and three of your request. The tables show the total number of current working age main benefit clients in the Bay of Plenty region and in the Rotorua District Territorial Authority as at the end of quarter June 2023, broken down by whether or not they have identified an iwi affiliation.

**Table Three:** The current working age main benefit clients in the Bay of Plenty region as at the end of quarter June 2023, broken down by whether or not they have identified an iwi affiliation.

**Table Four:** Total number of current working age main benefit clients in Rotorua District Territorial Authority area as at the end of quarter June 2023, broken down by whether or not they have identified an iwi affiliation.

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 regarding current working age main benefit clients, 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**