



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

26 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 1 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

- *Number of Accommodation Supplements supplied to those not receiving main benefits in 2021, 2022 and 2023 broken down by tax year.*

The Accommodation Supplement (AS), which replaced the Accommodation Benefit from 1 July 1993, is a non-taxable payment to assist people with limited income and limited cash assets to meet their accommodation costs. Assistance is available to help pay rent, board or costs of home ownership. A person does not have to be receiving a benefit to be assessed to qualify for AS. It is calculated using a formula that considers geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership).

You can find more information about the AS at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html.

Please refer to **Table One** in the attached **Appendix** for the number of Non-Beneficiary clients receiving Accommodation Supplement as at the end of March 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Please note, the data provided to you is taken at a point in time or a snapshot, therefore, the data is taken from a narrow window and can fluctuate significantly from day to day. This is in line with the Ministry's reporting for the purposes of Annual Review and Benefit Fact Sheet.

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 the Accommodation Supplement, 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

Table One: The number of Non-Beneficiary clients receiving Accommodation Supplement as at the end of March 2021, 2022, and 2023.

As at Month Ending	Number of Accommodation Supplements
March 2021	68,865
March 2022	71,472
March 2023	71,124

Notes:

- Accommodation Supplement is paid weekly for rent, mortgage, or board costs.
- Non-Beneficiary clients are those not receiving a Main Benefit but are receiving supplementary assistance paid under the Social Security Act 2018. These payments include, but are not limited to, Accommodation Supplement, Disability Allowance, Temporary Additional Support.
- The number of recipients of Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an accommodation supplement for their housing purposes.
- It is not necessarily a count of households.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development 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 published counts will never differ by more than two counts.