



28 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Could you please provide a breakdown of the number and value (\$) of Special Needs Grants (SNGs) issued by the Wairarapa Community Link for both the quarters ending 31 Mar 2023 and 30 Jun 2023*
- *Can this data please be provided per SNG category as per previous requests?*
- *Please supply data for all 'Need Reasons' when not suppressed (S). If suppressed, please include in 'Other' with note to say which categories are covered.*

Please see **Appendix One** containing **Table One**, which shows the number and amount granted for Special Needs Grants (SNGs) from the Wairarapa Service Centre for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023, broken down by quarter ending March 2023 and June 2023 and need reason.

You will note some of your requested need reasons do not appear in the table. This is because the Ministry did not receive any applications under that need reason category during the quarter.

You will also note that there is an increase in SNGs regarding emergency housing and Housing Support Products (HSP) in the June quarter. This increase was also reflected in nationwide data sets. We attribute this to system-wide changes to the HSP that went live in March 2023. The change shifted the processing of bonds, rent in advance, and rent arrears to HSP instead of the recoverable assistance payments (RAP) and Advance of Benefit Payment.

Further 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.

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 SNGs issued by the Wairarapa Community Link, 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 One

Table One: The number and amount granted for Special Needs Grants from the Wairarapa Service Centre for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023, broken down by quarter ending and the need reason.

Need Reason	March 2023		June 2023	
	Grants	Amount Granted	Grants	Amount Granted
Assistance during an initial stand down and/or application process	27	\$4,584.05	30	\$5,316.36
Bedding SNG	3	\$427.00	12	\$1,717.00
Car Impound Fee	3	\$460.00	3	\$1,437.50
Dental Treatment Advance	0	\$0	3	\$880.60
Dental Treatment SNG	171	\$122,132.35	189	\$131,982.25
Drivers Licence New	18	\$1,857.00	18	\$2,160.60
Drivers Licence Renewal	3	\$126.00	9	\$351.20
Effluent treatment system	0	\$0	3	\$300.00
Emergency Housing	30	\$115,224.00	120	\$427,879.25
Emergency Medical Equipment	3	\$60.00	3	\$450.00
Emergency Medical Treatment (fees)	6	\$891.00	3	\$612.00
Emergency Medical Treatment (prescription charges)	3	\$46.00	3	\$474.96
Food	1,020	\$115,494.05	843	\$98,762.36
HSP Bond Grant	27	\$38,704.00	90	\$144,653.66
HSP Moving Costs Grant	3	\$603.75	6	\$3,900.00
HSP Rent Arrears Grant	12	\$13,345.44	78	\$75,903.34
HSP Rent in Advance Grant	24	\$15,181.00	87	\$66,185.32
HSP Transition to Alternative Housing Grant	3	\$3,000.00	0	\$0
Health Travel Costs Client Only (Non-Recoverable)	9	\$710.00	9	\$770.00

Need Reason	March 2023		June 2023	
	Grants	Amount Granted	Grants	Amount Granted
Health Travel Costs Client Only (Recoverable)	6	\$968.00	6	\$670.00
Health Travel Costs with attendant (Non-Recoverable)	3	\$90.00	0	\$0
Health Travel Costs with attendant (Recoverable)	3	\$100.00	3	\$60.00
NET Payment	6	\$2,040.00	3	\$774.00
Re-establishment Refugee (Other)	27	\$15,028.62	21	\$12,294.10
Re-establishment Sole Parent (Accommodation)	3	\$600.00	0	\$0
Seasonal Work Assistance	0	\$0	3	\$292.00
Steps to freedom	15	\$5,851.05	15	\$4,616.05
Transfer to NZ Super	3	\$785.46	9	\$3,965.20
Vasectomy Surgery only	3	\$300.00	0	\$0
Vasectomy Travel	3	\$30.00	0	\$0
Water Tank Refill	3	\$242.19	3	\$680.00
Other Emergency Grants	15	\$2,378.25	21	\$10,340.00
Total	1,437	\$461,259.21	1,578	\$997,427.75

Notes:

- This is a count of grants not clients. A client may have multiple grants in a period.
- The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Service centre is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending Case Manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- HSP stands for Housing Support Product.
- The need reasons logged under the 'Other Emergency Grants' category varies for each quarter. These include, but are not limited to, additional health costs, replacement cell phones, unexpected petrol costs.
- 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 numbers one and two will always be rounded to three.
 - 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.
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