



30 April 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2024 to Oranga Tamariki, of which three of your questions were referred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on 2 April 2024 for response.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request, set out separately below.

What time on average does a young person who is transitioned out stay dependant on the state for support?

Further what percentage of those transitioned out remain supported by the state indefinitely

Regarding your request for data on the numbers of people who have transitioned from Oranga Tamariki and are receiving Ministry assistance, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

How many of these same young people are being fully supported by the state, as in being provided free housing and income support.

In response to this question about housing and support offered by the Ministry, I can only provide high-level information about the different types of financial support that the Ministry administers.

A full list of benefits and payments paid by the Ministry can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html. Different types of support are available depending on each person's circumstances and include:

Jobseeker Health Condition, Injury and Disability (JS-HCD) – Jobseeker Support can be paid to someone on the ground of a health condition, injury or disability. The person must be limited in their capacity or unable to work full-time, or in employment but can only work at a reduced level. More information about JS-HCD can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-

[support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/client-has-a-health-condition-injury-or-disability-01.html](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/client-has-a-health-condition-injury-or-disability-01.html)

Supported Living Payment (SLP) – paid for people who are not able to work because they are: permanently and severely restricted in their capacity for work because of a health condition, injury or disability or totally blind; or caring for a person who requires full-time care and attention at home. More information about SLP can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/introduction.html

Temporary Additional Support (TAS) – is a non-taxable extra help paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with regular essential living costs. This can include costs for health and disability that aren't covered by other payments. At the end of 13-weeks a client must reapply for this assistance. More information about TAS can be found here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/introduction.html

Disability Allowance (DA) – a non-taxable supplementary assistance payment to people who have ongoing, additional costs because of a disability. More information about DA can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/introduction.html

Child Disability Allowance (CDA) – a non-taxable allowance available to the principal caregiver of a dependent child who has a serious disability. It is paid because of extra care that may be needed. The caregiver may also be able to receive a Disability Allowance to meet any additional costs the child has because of their disability. More information about CDA can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/introduction.html

Housing costs – for clients who need help to pay rent or other accommodation costs, or support to stay in their home, the Ministry may be able to help. More information on housing support can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/live-in-home/housing-costs/index.html.

Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs.

The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in emergency housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation.

Other options including transitional housing can also be explored as an option depending on availability and the individual's circumstances. The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time. For people with high and complex needs, it can sometimes be challenging to identify suitable long-term housing, which can lead to longer stays in emergency housing.

Work and Income work closely with these people to see what can be done to ensure that once they have a home of their own, they have the skills to sustain it, and the support they need to keep it. The Ministry grants financial assistance to clients and pays it to suppliers on their behalf.

EH SNGs are intended as a one-off grant. They are not able to be paid in advance of the need, or beyond what an individual is entitled to at the time of application. Given the high level of need many clients experience, subsequent grants are applied for in succession, and these are paid for up to 21 days at a time.

In addition to these supports, people may also be able to claim hardship assistance for one off costs associated with health conditions, injuries or disability. More information on hardship assistance can be found here:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/index.html
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/index.html

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services