



2 December 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2024 requesting clarification about key statistics reported in the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) 2024 Annual Report, at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2024/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2024/index.html).

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. Some sections of your request are grouped together.

- *What does the Income support figure of 1,378,800 include ie does it exclude Superannuation of 912,400 and some of the other benefits listed on this page?*
- *What is included in the 380,900 main benefit and is that included in the 1,378,800?*

At the end of June 2024, the Ministry reported 1,378,800 New Zealanders were receiving income support. This includes the 912,400 New Zealanders receiving New Zealand Superannuation (NZS).

This number also includes New Zealanders receiving the following main benefit types:

- Jobseeker Student Hardship
- Supported Living Payment
- Emergency Maintenance Allowance
- Sole Parent Support
- Jobseeker Support
- Youth Payment / Youth Parent Payment

Jobseeker Support refers to both Jobseeker Support Work Ready and Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability.

The Ministry regularly publishes quarterly benefit data which can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html).

For a complete list of income support that the Ministry provides, I refer you to the Work and Income Manuals and Procedures (MAP) website, at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/index.html).

- *Based on 2023 census we have 829K 65+yr olds in NZ but 912,00 superannuation payments were made. Is the differential those living overseas?*

The Ministry does not compare our data to the 2023 census. However, I am providing you with **Appendix One** containing **Table One** showing the number of clients in receipt of NZS as at the end of June 2024 broken down by whether a client is receiving a portable pension. A portable pension is paid to New Zealander's who are living overseas.

- *What was the total amount \$ paid to superannuants in 2023?*

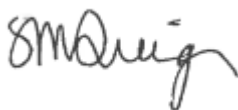
The total expenditure of NZS to superannuitants in 2023 is available on page 201 of the Ministry's 2024 Annual Report. This table shows the expenditure on NZS for both 2023 and 2024.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**

**Appendix One**

**Table One: The number of clients in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation as at end of June 2024, broken down by whether client is receiving a portable pension overseas.**

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Portability Indicator</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>
<b>New Zealand Superannuation</b>	Yes	66,651
	No	845,772
	<b>Total</b>	<b>912,420</b>

Notes:

- A portable pension is paid to New Zealand clients living overseas.
- 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.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will 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.