



23 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2024, requesting information about the number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement in Rotorua.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I will first address your request for data before providing general information about the Accommodation Supplement. Please see the below table in response to your request.

Table One: The number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement in the Rotorua District Territorial Local Authority as end of April 2019 to end of April 2024, broken down by year and type of accommodation.

As at the end of	Type of accommodation			Total
	Boarding	Own Home	Renting	
April 2019	2,007	573	4,488	7,065
April 2020	2,439	621	4,998	8,055
April 2021	2,190	684	5,562	8,433
April 2022	2,004	660	5,730	8,394
April 2023	1,821	636	5,796	8,253
April 2024	1,908	621	5,820	8,352

Table Notes:

- Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) are the second tier of local government in New Zealand, below regional councils.
- TLAs are estimated based on the client's address recorded by the Ministry at the time period, though the client may not necessarily reside in the same address at that time.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry 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 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.

General information about Accommodation Supplement

The Accommodation Supplement (AS) is a non-taxable supplementary payment which provides financial assistance towards accommodation costs. It is available to eligible people who rent, board, or own their own home. A person does not have to be receiving a benefit to be eligible.

The amount of AS an eligible person or household receives is calculated using a formula that accounts for differences in regional rents, the type of main benefit received, family size, accommodation costs, income, cash assets, and accommodation type. The general formula the Ministry applies to calculate AS entitlement are outlined here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/calculating-rate-general-formula-01.html.

The statistical area units used to identify the AS areas are defined by Stats NZ. They are not equivalent to postal address suburbs, towns, or cities, despite occasionally sharing similar names. I note that New Zealand is divided into four areas, with a different maximum rate of AS payable within each area, for the purpose of calculating AS entitlement.

Further information regarding the areas the Ministry uses to calculate AS entitlement is available at the links below:

- **Definitions of areas** www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html
- **Entry thresholds and maximum rates** www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/entry-thresholds-and-maximum-rates.html.

Homeowners are eligible to receive the AS for home ownership costs; however, the maximum weekly payments for the four AS areas are currently set based on 2016 rental data.

Further information regarding the AS is available on this Ministry webpage: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/index.html.

Any person currently in receipt of AS who believes the amount of AS they receives needs to be reviewed can initiate a review by completing this form and submitting it to their nearest Work and Income service centre for processing: www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/forms/change-of-address-accommodation-costs.pdf.

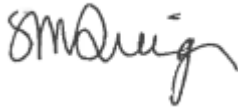
At present, some people who need additional support to help meet essential living costs not subsidised by their AS may qualify for Temporary Additional Support (TAS). You do not have to be on a benefit to qualify for this payment. You can read more about TAS, including the eligibility requirements and the types of costs included, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/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 regarding the number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement in Rotorua, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
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Ministerial and Executive Services