



3 September 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

The Department of Corrections has transferred your request for information about the Steps to Freedom grant to the Ministry of Social Development. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Steps to Freedom is a non-recoverable re-establishment grant that is part of the Special Needs Grant welfare programme. Like other re-establishment grants, entitlement is based on an applicants identified needs to re-establish themselves in the community.

A form of the Steps to Freedom grant has existed since 1983. When the grant was originally introduced it was available at a maximum of twice the single youth rate of the unemployment benefit at that time.

The grant has remained at \$350 since 1991, as the grant is not indexed to inflation, or to average wage growth as main benefits are.

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

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services