



15 MAY 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 19 March 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Is it possible to find out how many school leavers left school and went on a benefit in the last say 3 years. Looking at the Manawatu/Whanganui Region?*

The Ministry records various reasons for clients entering into a benefit. Please find enclosed a table that shows the number of main benefit grants for clients 16 to 18 years of age in the Whanganui/Manawatu area for reason "school/tertiary college finished" and "exams finished" by calendar year between 2015 and 2017. Please note, any school leavers that were recorded as receiving a benefit under a different reason will not be represented in this table.

Please note this data does not cover clients on a Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment as a client must be in, or available for, full time education, training or work-based learning leading towards an NCEA level 2 qualification, or an equivalent or higher qualification in order to qualify for these two benefits.

Please note the data for Jobseeker Support (JS) only includes 18 year olds, as clients are only eligible for JS if they are aged 18 years or over.

Further information can be found on the Ministry's benefit fact sheets. The following Excel table '*Territorial Authorities (TA) data tables – March 2018*' provides a view of benefit use broken down by territorial authority and client characteristics including age: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2018/quarterly-benefit-fact-sheets-ta-tables-march-2018.xlsx>

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 available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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 16 to 18 year olds on benefit 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EBT', written in a cursive style.

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

Number of main benefit grants for clients 16 to 18 years of age in the Whanganui / Manawatu area for reason "school/tertiary college finished" and "exams finished" by calendar year 2015 to 2017

Year	Benefit	Number clients granted benefit
2015	JS Work Ready	122
	JS HC&D and SLP HC&D	4
	Total	126
2016	JS Work Ready	99
	JS HC&D and SLP Carers	5
	Total	104
2017	JS Work Ready	108
	JS HC&D and SLP HC&D	5
	Total	113

Notes:

- Whanganui/Manawatu area was selected as Whanganui, Palmerston North, Palmerston North Terrace End, Horowhenua, Foxton, Marton, and Feilding service centres
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit
- JS is Jobseeker Support
- JS HC&D related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship
- SLP is Supported Living Payment
- SLP Carers is Supported Living Payment Carers
- SLP HC&D is Supported Living Payment Health Condition & Disability and Carers