



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 MAY 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 3 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to request a list of all supplementary payments and thresholds that are not regularly adjusted (referred to on page 19 of the Briefing to the Incoming Minister 2017). Alongside each of the supplementary payments/thresholds on the list, I would like details around when they were last adjusted. I would like further details about what the payment amount is/threshold is for each of the supplementary payments/thresholds in the list.*

As noted in the Briefing to the Income Minister, some supplementary payments and thresholds are not regularly adjusted and have not increased in some time. The enclosed table shows the seven main supplementary payments and thresholds that are not adjusted annually, including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds, which were referred to in the Briefing. Although the payment rates and thresholds in the table are not annually adjusted, ad-hoc adjustments are made from time to time.

Additionally, payment rates of Family Tax Credit are also not annually adjusted. They are only adjusted when the cumulative Consumers Price Index reaches 5 per cent (rates will be increased on 1 July 2018 as part of the Families Package). Further information regarding supplementary payments and thresholds are available at www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/.

As per the emails to you on 2 May 2018, the Ministry will provide you with a further list of payments and thresholds that are not regularly adjusted but impact fewer clients. The Ministry will provide this as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than 1 June 2018.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter

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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 regarding supplementary payments and thresholds that are not regularly adjusted, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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,



Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

The table below shows supplementary payments and thresholds that are not adjusted annually, as per page 19 of of the 'Briefing to the Incoming Minister 2017', (BIM) including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds.

Payments and thresholds not adjusted each year for inflation	Last ad-hoc adjusted	Amount				
		Number of people in household	Area 1 Maximum	Area 2 Maximum	Area 3 Maximum	Area 4 Maximum
Accommodation Supplement	1 April 2018	1 2 3+	\$165 \$235 \$305	\$105 \$155 \$220	\$80 \$105 \$160	\$70 \$80 \$120
Abatement thresholds for main benefits	Jobseeker Support was last adjusted in 1996, while other main benefits were adjusted in 2010	Income Abatement Abatement free zone		Full time \$80	Part Time \$100	30c per \$1 between \$100-\$200 70c per \$1 over \$200
Accommodation Supplement cash asset levels	1988	A non-beneficiary may be able to receive the full rate of Accommodation Supplement if their cash assets are less than \$2,700 for a single person, or \$5,400 for a sole parent or a married, civil union or de facto couple. A beneficiary or non-beneficiary may be able to receive Accommodation Supplement if they (and their partner) have cash assets that don't exceed \$8,100 for a single person, or \$16,200 for a sole parent or a married, civil union or de facto couple.				
Emergency Benefit/Hardship Benefit cash asset levels	1990	The maximum cash asset threshold is \$4,300 for a single person and \$7,464 if the client is married, in a civil union or de facto relationship, or is a sole parent.				
Childcare Assistance thresholds and payments	2010	www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/childcare-assistance-tables/oscar-subsidy-current.html				
Working for Families	Will be adjusted on 1 July 2018	The income threshold will increase from \$36,350 to \$42,700 a year on 1 July 2018.				
In-Work Tax Credit	2016	\$72.50 per week				

Notes:

- The benefit system has two main abatement regimes:
 - A full-time regime designed to incentivise full-time work, which mainly applies to people on JSS-Related benefits, and
 - A part-time regime designed to incentivise part-time work, which mainly applies to people receiving Sole Parent Support (SPS) and Supported Living Payment (SLP).