**Supported Living Payment - December 2013 quarter**

Supported Living Payment (SLP) is for people who have or care for someone with a health condition, injury or disability that severely limits their ability to work on a long-term basis.

**Key Facts**

At the end of December 2013:

* 92,661 working-age people were receiving Supported Living Payment.
* 3.4 percent of the working-age population of New Zealand were receiving Supported Living Payment.
* Supported Living Payment recipients are more likely to be aged over 40.
* 92 percent of recipients of Supported Living Payment had been receiving any benefit continuously for more than one year. This is due to the chronic nature of their condition or disability.
* Nearly a third (32%) of those receiving Supported Living Payment – Health Condition or Disability had a psychological or psychiatric disorder.

Between December 2012 and December 2013:

* The number of recipients of Supported Living Payment remained stable, increasing by 1,147, or 1 percent.
* There was a small proportional increase in benefit receipt for Mäori and Pacific peoples, while New Zealand European numbers remained stable.
* There were small increases in Supported Living Payment numbers in the older age groups.
* The percentage of the working–age population on Supported Living Payment remained stable.

**Characteristics of working-age recipients of Supported Living Payment, at the end of December 2008, 2012 and 2013**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Dec-2008 | Dec-2012 | Dec-2013 | Annual change |
| Supported Living Payment - Health Condition or Disability (HCD) | 83,501 | 83,571 | 84,299 | 728 | 1% |
| Supported Living Payment - Caring | 5,667 | 7,943 | 8,362 | 419 | 5% |
| Male | 45,383 | 46,813 | 47,053 | 240 | 1% |
| Female | 43,785 | 44,701 | 45,608 | 907 | 2% |
| Mäori | 20,019 | 21,878 |  22,598  | 720 | 3% |
| Pacific people | 4,887 | 5,718 |  5,852  | 134 | 2% |
| NZ European | 48,470 | 47,827 |  48,133  | 306 | 1% |
| All other ethnicities\* / unspecified | 15,792 | 16,091 |  16,078  | -13 | 0% |
| 18-24 | 6,594 | 7,110 |  7,093  | -17 | 0% |
| 25-39 | 18,259 | 17,045 |  16,916  | -129 | -1% |
| 40-54 | 33,947 | 35,297 |  35,749  | 452 | 1% |
| 55-64 | 30,368 | 32,062 |  32,903  | 841 | 3% |
| Continuous duration on any benefit |  |  |  |  |  |
|  One year or less | 6,182 | 4,780 |  7,847  | 3,067 | 64% |
|  More than one year | 82,986 | 86,734 |  84,814  | -1,920 | -2% |
| Incapacity groups (for HCD clients) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  Psychological or psychiatric condition  | 23,780 | 25,883 | 26,572 | 689 | 3% |
|  Intellectual disability | 11,089 | 10,725 | 10,561 | -164 | -2% |
|  Musculo-skeletal system disorders  | 10,434 | 9,188 | 9,111 | -77 | -1% |
|  Nervous system disorders | 6,475 | 6,360 | 6,427 | 67 | 1% |
|  Cardio-vascular disorders | 6,286 | 5,951 | 5,827 | -124 | -2% |
|  Accidents | 4,583 | 3,678 | 3,715 | 37 | 1% |
|  Cancer and congenital conditions | 5,711 | 6,271 | 6,402 | 131 | 2% |
|  Other disorders and conditions | 15,143 | 15,515 | 15,684 | 169 | 1% |
| Total number of recipients of SLP | **89,168** | **91,514** | **92,661** | **1,147** | **1%** |
| *Percentage of working-age main benefit population receiving SLP* | *31.2%* | *27.0%* | *28.8%* |  |  |
| *Percentage of working-age population receiving SLP* | *3.4%* | *3.3%* | *3.4%* |  |  |

**Five-year trend**

The number of clients receiving Supported Living Payment at the end of December has remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2013, increasing only slightly. The long-term nature of conditions for those on Supported Living Payment mean that very few people move from SLP into paid work or on to another benefit.

The slight increase between 2008 and 2013 which have affected the number of clients receiving SLP may include an ageing population and increasing movement of people living with long-term health conditions and disabilities into the community.

The proportion of the working-age population receiving SLP at the end of December each year remained stable between 2008 and 2013.