



13 JUL 2016

Dear

On 13 June 2016 the Ministry received your request, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of Child Disability Allowance applications that were received in the East Coast region over the past five years.*
- *The number that were approved.*
- *The number that were declined.*

Child Disability Allowance (CDA) is a non-taxable allowance available to the primary caregiver of a child who is diagnosed with a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability. CDA is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested. It is usually paid to the primary carer in recognition of the extra care they provide to a child with a severe medical condition compared to that required for a child of a similar age who is not impaired. It is not related to any particular financial costs incurred in relation to the child's disability.

People may also be eligible to receive a Disability Allowance to meet any additional costs the dependent child may have due to their disability. Disability Allowance is an income tested, non-taxable form of financial assistance available to people and their dependent children who have on-going additional costs resulting from a disability.

A number of factors are considered when assessing a person's eligibility. However, a person will be declined an allowance if they do not meet the eligibility criteria set out by the Ministry. Further details about criteria and payment are available on the Work and Income website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz

Please find the table below that shows the number of Child Disability Allowance applications, grants and declines for the East Coast region.

The number of Child Disability Allowance applications, grants and declines for the East Coast region.

Year	Outcomes		
	Grants	Declines	Total Received
2011	641	79	720
2012	641	84	725
2013	673	65	738
2014	698	74	772
2015	655	57	712

Note:

- CDA is paid to the principal caregiver for a child with a serious disability and who needs constant care and attention e.g. physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability.
- CDA is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested.
- CDA can be paid to partners and primary clients in their own right.
- East Coast region consists of the Flaxmere, Gisborne, Hastings, Kaiti, Napier, Ruatoria, Taradale, Waipukurau and Wairoa Service Centres.
- This represents a count of grants not individuals as the same person may have been granted a benefit more than once.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery