



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

21 JUL 2016



Dear 

On 8 June 2016 we received a transfer from Treasury of your request, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

- *As part of the government's housing subsidies I understand that it subsidises not just rents but also mortgage costs (providing someone qualifies for such assistance). I'm wanting to know dollar figures for each type of subsidy, please.*

The Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards accommodation costs. It is available for people who rent, board or own their own home and a person does not have to be receiving a benefit to qualify. It is calculated using a formula that takes into account geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership).

Please find enclosed a table providing the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients broken down by tenure type, weekly sum and average weekly rate as at 31 March 2016.

Further information about the Accommodation Supplement, including trends and relevant statistics, is publicly available on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/statistical-report/statistical-report-2008/supplementary-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html

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**

The number of Accommodation Supplement recipients broken down by tenure type, weekly sum and average weekly rate as at 31 March 2016.

Tenure Type	Number of Recipients	Weekly Sum of Payments	Average Weekly Rate
Renting	189,894	\$15,779,802	\$83
Boarding	63,101	\$2,111,992	\$33
Own Home	33,443	\$2,508,563	\$75
Total	286,438	\$20,400,357	\$71

Notes:

- Includes clients of all ages, and clients who are not on a main benefit.
- An Accommodation Supplement is paid weekly for rent, mortgage or board.
- The number of recipients of an Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an Accommodation Supplement for their housing purposes. It is not necessarily a count of households.
- Given that many peoples' circumstances change on a regular basis, Accommodation Supplement reporting is based on a point in time approach.