



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

2-8 NOV 2016

On 29 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of Cook Island pensioners, living in the Cook Islands and collecting the NZ pension including the New Zealand Dollar Value.*

New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) provides a retirement income for eligible individuals who have reached 65 years of age. It is paid at a flat rate and is not adjusted for income, assets or employment status unless a non-qualifying spouse is included in the NZS or supplementary assistance is being paid. Further information about NZS is available at: <http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/statistical-report/statistical-report-2008/superannuation-and-pensions/>

I can advise you that as at 30 September 2016, 341 people who are in receipt of NZS reside in the Cook Islands, totalling an approximate annualised amount of \$6,364,234 New Zealand Dollars.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

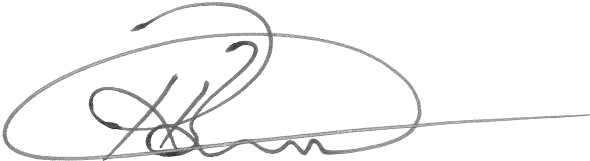
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 after ten working days. 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 regarding the number of people in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation living in the Cook Islands with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape. A long horizontal line extends from the right side of the signature.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**