



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

07 SEP 2017



Dear

On 9 August 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of the documents identified over the last two years regarding beneficiary take up of assistance.*

As discussed with you on 5 September 2017, the reports provided in this response relate specifically to non-beneficiary take-up of in-work financial assistance and do not relate directly to beneficiary take up of assistance. The Ministry has rescoped your request to identify if any documents fall in scope of your original request and I can advise that there are no documents in scope that address your request.

As previously advised, the Ministry provides the National Beneficiaries Advocacy Consultative Group with quarterly reports which shows data regarding beneficiaries who appear to be potentially eligible for Temporary Additional Support (TAS) based on the accommodation and disability related costs recorded on their file, and of those, who may qualify for TAS. It is important to note that this is a list of clients who may qualify for TAS, not clients who do qualify for TAS as this list only factors in a client's costs and not the additional criteria a client requires to meet in order to qualify for this assistance. Therefore these reports are not related to increasing uptake.

The purpose of TAS is that it is a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. It is not intended to be used longer than 13 weeks and unlike other supplementary assistance it is not based solely on costs as factors such as the actions the client has undertaken to try and meet their costs on their own are considered in the application. Clients meet regularly with their Case Managers to discuss their circumstances and a conversation to ensure that a client is receiving their full and correct entitlement will be discussed.

Additional information regarding TAS, including the qualifications, can be accessed on the Ministry's website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/index.html)

The two reports titled '*Report-back on measures to improve take-up of in-work financial assistance*' refer to the take-up of non-beneficiary financial assistance for low income working families. In-work financial assistance supports employment by ensuring that these families are better off in work than if they received a main benefit and makes employment more sustainable. The Ministry helps New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent.

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The following 12 reports fall in scope of your request:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
15 August 2017	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of June 2017'</i>
10 May 2017	<i>'Report-back on measures to improve take-up of in-work financial assistance'</i>
1 May 2017	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of March 2017'</i>
3 February 2017	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of December 2016'</i>
31 October 2016	<i>'Report-back on measures to improve take-up of in-work financial assistance'</i>
13 October 2016	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of September 2016'</i>
12 July 2016	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of June 2016'</i>
14 April 2016	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of March 2016'</i>
5 February 2016	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of December 2015'</i>
5 February 2016	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of September 2015'</i>
11 August 2015	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at 26 June 2015'</i>
7 August 2015	<i>'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at 01 April 15'</i>

Please note that we have enclosed the two reports titled *'Report-back on measures to improve take-up of in-work financial assistance'* dated 31 October 2016 and 10 May 2017 and the latest quarterly report titled *'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of June 2017'* dated 15 August 2017. You are provided with a sample report that represents the latest version of the ten quarterly reports. If you would like any further versions of these reports please specify.

You will note that the name of an individual is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Please note that the report titled *'Report-back on measures to improve take-up of in-work financial assistance'* dated 10 May 2017, has been identified since your previous response dated 9 August 2017, as an update to the version of the report dated 31 October 2016. You are also provided with the latest quarterly report *'Working age beneficiaries with an apparent TAS deficit as at end of June 2017'* which was not available at the time of your previous response.

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

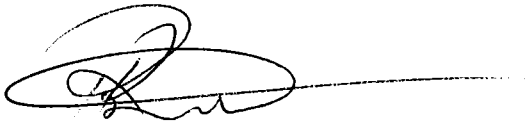
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 and attachments 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, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response concerning beneficiary take up of assistance, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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