



12 JUN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 17 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, updated data regarding the number of clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement at the end of the September 2017 and March 2018 quarters.

Enclosed is a table outlining the number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement at the end of September 2007 to September 2017 as well as March 2018, broken down by ethnic group and gender.

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 available to the wider public shortly. 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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Accommodation Supplement statistics, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

The number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement at the end of September 2007 to September 2017 also including March 2018, broken down by ethnic group and gender

Ethnic Group	Gender	Sep-07	Sep-08	Sep-09	Sep-10	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Mar-18
Māori	Female	43,880	45,596	51,252	54,335	53,210	53,821	53,012	52,919	53,568	53,148	52,287	51,360
	Male	22,594	24,355	35,340	37,639	34,955	34,734	33,404	33,619	34,402	33,952	33,759	32,459
Pacific Island	Female	10,252	10,732	12,593	13,270	12,081	11,934	11,271	10,948	10,904	12,146	11,779	11,702
	Male	5,650	6,237	9,366	9,689	8,442	8,461	7,736	7,380	7,261	7,645	7,387	7,238
NZ European	Female	73,826	75,247	82,737	84,956	83,589	81,970	79,645	77,440	76,316	71,025	69,339	68,036
	Male	41,020	43,212	57,931	60,439	57,145	55,189	53,308	52,155	52,754	49,849	48,743	47,525
Other	Female	23,130	24,305	27,114	28,722	28,971	29,098	28,892	28,911	28,862	30,565	29,768	29,263
	Male	17,489	18,524	22,860	24,013	23,012	22,843	22,354	22,060	22,552	23,857	22,897	22,301
Unspecified	Female	5,999	6,155	6,769	6,572	5,804	5,267	4,811	4,447	4,317	5,382	5,541	5,476
	Male	2,584	2,773	3,970	3,843	3,197	2,921	2,746	2,667	2,634	3,783	3,985	3,923
Total		246,424	257,136	309,932	323,478	310,406	306,238	297,179	292,546	293,570	291,352	285,485	279,283

Notes:

- This includes clients of all ages and all benefit types
- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct this table necessarily aligns neatly with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded in MSD's systems have been gathered under a variety of classification schemes as clients came into contact with the Ministry.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller and politically significant ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.