



18 OCT 2019

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2019 to the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Evidence of intergenerational families on the benefit; how common this is currently and what data is available on 2nd and 3rd generation benefit receivers. This includes what type of benefit people receive.*

While anecdotally Work and Income staff are aware of examples where multiple generations of families have been supported by the welfare system, The Ministry of Social Development has very little statistical information on families in New Zealand experiencing intergenerational welfare dependency.

The benefit records held in electronic form that allow a nationally representative examination of benefit receipt in successive generations began to be collected in the early 1990s. Given this limited history, no studies that specifically examine benefit receipt across three generations have been undertaken.

Some consideration of benefit receipt across two generations is included in Ministry's actuarial modelling but is limited to cases where there was parental benefit receipt in early childhood and the young person's own benefit receipt in early adulthood. Given the data constraints, the population considered is not likely to be representative of the total population of families in receipt of a benefit across two generations. The following reports document intergenerational benefit receipt captured in Ministry data to date and describe how it is used in the Ministry's actuarial modelling. The most detailed reporting is included in Greenfield et al (2015) with subsequent reports focusing on the role of intergenerational benefit receipt in the latest model iterations.

- Greenfield et al (2015). *Ministry of Social Development: Valuation of the Benefit System for Working-age Adults as at 30 June 2014*. Sydney, Australia: Taylor Fry Pty Ltd:  
[www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2014.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2014.pdf)
- Raubal H and Judd E (2015). *2014 Benefit System Performance Report*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Social Development:  
[www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2014-benefit-system-performance-report.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2014-benefit-system-performance-report.pdf)
- Greenfield et al (2016). *Ministry of Social Development: Valuation of the Benefit System for Working-age Adults as at 30 June 2015*. Sydney, Australia: Taylor Fry Pty Ltd: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-)

[work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2015.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2015.pdf)

- Raubal et al (2016). *2015 Benefit System Performance Report*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2015-benefit-system-performance-report-final-publish.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2015-benefit-system-performance-report-final-publish.pdf)
- Greenfield et al (2017). Ministry of Social Development: Valuation of the Benefit System for Working-age Adults as at 30 June 2016. Sydney, Australia: Taylor Fry Pty Ltd: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2016.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/valuation-reports/valuation-benefit-system-working-age-adults-30-june-2016.pdf)
- Raubal et al (2017). *2016 Benefit System Performance Report*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2016-benefit-system-performance-report-final.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/investment-approach/2016-benefit-system-performance-report-final.pdf)
- Greenfield et al (2018). *Annual report on the Benefit System for Working-age Adults as at 30 June 2017*. Sydney, Australia: Taylor Fry Pty Ltd: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/annual-report-on-the-benefit-system-for-working-age-adults-as-at-30-june-2017.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/annual-report-on-the-benefit-system-for-working-age-adults-as-at-30-june-2017.pdf)
- Raubal et al (2018). *2017 Benefit System Performance Report*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/2017-benefit-system-performance-report-june-2018.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/2017-benefit-system-performance-report-june-2018.pdf)

Additionally, an external study (Crichton et al., 2015) using linked administrative data includes tables that show receipt across two generation (associations between parental benefit receipt in early childhood and the young person's own benefit receipt in early childhood) and a glimpse of receipt across three generations (associations between parental benefit receipt in early childhood and the young person's own benefit receipt in early childhood and the young person's own benefit receipt with their own dependent child in early adulthood). References for this paper and other papers that include material that may be of interest to you are provided below.

- Crichton, S., Templeton, R. and Tumen, S. (2015). *Using Integrated Administrative Data to Understand Children at Risk of Poor Outcomes as Young Adults*. Wellington, New Zealand Treasury. [www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2015-09/ap15-01.pdf](http://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2015-09/ap15-01.pdf)
- CSRE (2010). *Understanding sub-groups of sole parents receiving main benefits*. Wellington, Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/sole-parenting/understanding-sub-groups-of-sole-parents-receiving-main-benefits.doc](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/sole-parenting/understanding-sub-groups-of-sole-parents-receiving-main-benefits.doc)
- Welch, D., and Wilson, M. (2010). *Lifecourse factors associated with time spent receiving benefit in young adulthood: Full report on early findings*. Dunedin

Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, Otago University, and Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/sole-parenting/lifecourse-factors-associated-with-benefit-receipt-summary-report.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/sole-parenting/lifecourse-factors-associated-with-benefit-receipt-summary-report.pdf)

- Wilson, M., and Soughtton, D., (2009). *Children in Families Supported by Main Benefits: An Update*. Wellington, Ministry of Social Development: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj36/children-in-families-supported-by-main-benefits.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj36/children-in-families-supported-by-main-benefits.pdf)
- Barrett, G., Krsinich F. and Wilson, M. (2003). Young children supported by benefits in New Zealand: A duration analysis, *New Zealand Population Review*, 20(1):131-153
- Ball, D. and Wilson, M. (2002). The prevalence and persistence of low income among New Zealand children: Indicative measures from benefit dynamics data, *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, 18:92-117: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj18/18-pages92-117.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj18/18-pages92-117.pdf)

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 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 regarding intergenerational benefit receipt, 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



Fleur McLaren  
**Manager Research and Evaluation**