



16 APR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 18 March 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Up-to-date data on the holders of Community Services Cards (CSC). I would like to know the number of CSC holders from the year 2017 onwards, broken down by age (or age group) and ethnicity.*

The Community Services Card is available to New Zealanders on a low income. The card can be used to reduce the costs of a range of fees associated with healthcare, and is administered by the Ministry of Social Development on behalf of the Ministry of Health. Recipients of New Zealand Superannuation may be granted both a Community Service Card and a SuperGold Card and receive a combined card.

Further information about Community Services Card eligibility is available from the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html.

Please find the following tables attached:

- Table One showing the number of Community Services Cards (CSC) as at the end of December 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, broken down by ethnic group.
- Table Two showing the number of Community Services Cards as at the end of December 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, broken down by age group.

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. 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 Community Services Card data, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a large, stylized 'B' and a long horizontal stroke.

Bridget Saunders

Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Table One: Number of Community Services Cards (CSC) as at the end of December 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, broken down by ethnic group.

Ethnic group	As at end of											
	December 2016			December 2017			December 2018			December 2019		
	Type of card		Total	Type of card		Total	Type of card		Total	Type of card		Total
	Community Services card only - No Super Gold Card	Super Gold plus Community Services Card		Community Services card only - No Super Gold Card	Super Gold plus Community Services Card		Community Services card only - No Super Gold Card	Super Gold plus Community Services Card		Community Services card only - No Super Gold Card	Super Gold plus Community Services Card	
Māori	146,157	21,342	167,499	143,399	22,221	165,620	161,571	25,261	186,832	177,696	26,766	204,462
NZ European	186,792	164,710	351,502	175,541	165,083	340,624	193,359	173,759	367,118	206,886	183,568	390,454
Pacific Peoples	40,207	10,777	50,984	37,706	10,884	48,590	50,736	13,323	64,059	56,384	13,865	70,249
Other	99,421	55,064	154,485	90,886	55,815	146,701	105,016	61,112	166,128	113,472	64,512	177,984
Unspecified	83,083	45,077	128,160	88,223	40,324	128,547	99,589	37,250	136,839	98,276	34,837	133,113
Total	555,660	296,970	852,630	535,755	294,327	830,082	610,271	310,705	920,976	652,714	323,548	976,262

Notes:

- The data reflects CSC on issue and reissue, which includes CSCs on their own and Super Gold Card with a CSC.
- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct this table necessarily aligns with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded in the Ministry's systems are gathered under a variety of classification schemes as clients come 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 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 align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.

Table Two: Number of Community Services Cards (CSC) as at the end of December 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, broken down by age group.

Age group	As at the end of			
	December 2016	December 2017	December 2018	December 2019
<16	47,133	49,045	50,910	49,488
16	3,899	S	S	3,939
17	4,422	4,285	4,417	4,323
18-19	28,453	26,150	27,409	30,000
20-24	74,855	69,455	73,950	81,786
25-29	61,788	60,156	70,132	76,746
30-34	52,021	50,833	63,326	71,058
35-39	50,357	48,311	58,789	63,951
40-44	50,784	46,782	54,440	57,455
45-49	51,988	49,476	57,152	59,084
50-54	47,262	45,107	52,326	55,186
55-59	44,027	43,858	50,918	53,855
60-64	46,391	46,027	51,010	54,240
65+	289,250	286,611	302,086	315,108
Unspecified	0	S	S	43
Total	852,630	830,082	920,976	976,262

Notes:

- These are CSC on issue and reissue. Which includes CSC only and Super Gold Card with a CSC.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.