



24 DEC 2020

Tēnā koe

On 1 December 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of individuals on the Social Housing Register waiting list receiving the Supported Living Payment in the September 2019 and September 2020 quarters.*
- *The number of individuals on the Social Housing Register where the primary applicant was in receipt of a main benefit due to an incapacity in the September 2019 and September 2020 quarters.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (previously known as the Social Housing Register). The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in public housing but who have applied to be rehoused. While the Ministry do the housing assessments which inform the Public Housing Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora respectively. More information about the Public Housing Register is available here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/index.html).

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed on the Register until a house becomes available. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for public housing and if they or a family member need an accessible home, we capture that as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register will be contacted on a regular basis to confirm their circumstances and are referred to public housing providers when suitable properties become available.

The Supported Living Payments is available to people who are severely restricted or unable to work on a long-term basis because of a health condition or disability, and for people who are caring for someone who needs significant care. More information about the Supported Living Payment is available here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html).

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Jobseeker Support is available to people who can usually work full-time. It also includes people who can only work part-time or can't look for work at the moment, for example because they have a health condition, injury or disability. More information about the Jobseeker Support is available here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html).

Please find the following two tables attached:

- **Table One:** Number of clients in receipt of the Supported Living Payment on the Public Housing Register, as at end of September for 2019 and 2020
- **Table Two:** Number of clients in receipt of the Jobseeker Support (Health Condition, Injury or Disability) and Supported Living Payment (Health and Disability) on the Public Housing Register, as at end of September for 2019 and 2020

**Table One: Number of clients in receipt of the Supported Living Payment on the Public Housing Register, as at end of September for 2019 and 2020**

| Benefit Type                     | September 2019 | September 2020 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Supported Living Payment related | 3,346          | 4,437          |

**Table Two: Number of clients in receipt of the Jobseeker Support (Health Condition, Injury or Disability) and Supported Living Payment (Health and Disability) on the Public Housing Register, as at end of September for 2019 and 2020**

| Benefit Type   | September 2019 | September 2020 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Jobseeker Support (Health Condition, Injury or Disability) | 2,359          | 3,821          |
| Supported Living Payment (Health and Disability)           | 3,054          | 4,004          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5,413</b>   | <b>7,825</b>   |

**Notes for Table One and Table Two:**

- This data is for active clients. Active clients both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- This only includes priority A and B applications. This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- **Table One** includes Supported Living Payment Health and Disability and Carers.

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.

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This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter 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 regarding the Public Housing Register, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



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