



30 APR 2021

Dear

On 9 April 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many Māori received the funeral grant for 2019 and 2020, broken down into regions*

A Funeral Grant provides assistance towards a person's funeral expenses. The Funeral Grant helps with actual and reasonable funeral costs and is not intended to cover the whole cost of the funeral. There is a maximum amount that can be paid.

Funeral Grants are available where there are insufficient accessible resources available to cover the necessary costs of a funeral. If the deceased person has a surviving partner or is a child, an income test is applied.

Anyone can apply for a Funeral Grant on behalf of a deceased person, but the application must be processed through the deceased person's record. The person applying for the Funeral Grant must be able to provide estate details and other relevant information about the person who has died (including details about any surviving children under the age of 18 years). More information on Funeral Grants can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/funeral-grant.html.

It is important to note that the Ministry is not the only agency that funds the costs of funerals. We must make sure that the client is applying for a Funeral Grant because there is no entitlement available elsewhere. If assistance towards the funeral costs is available from another agency, the client applying for a Funeral Grant must contact them for assistance first.

Please see **Table One**, attached as **Appendix A**, which shows the number of Funeral Grants and amount paid by the Ministry to Māori clients in the calendar years 2019 and 2020, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

Please note, the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry. The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct. While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

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
- 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 the number of Funeral Grants and amount paid by the Ministry to Māori clients in the calendar years 2019 and 2020, 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



Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix A:

Table One: The number of Funeral Grants and amount paid by the Ministry to Māori clients in the calendar years 2019 and 2020, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

Territorial Local Authority	Calendar Year				Total	
	2019		2020		Grants	Total Amount
	Grants	Total Amount	Grants	Total Amount		
Ashburton district	3	\$4,969.67	0	\$2,093.31	3	\$7,062.98
Auckland super city	402	\$797,749.72	438	\$888,461.32	840	\$1,686,211.04
Buller district	S	\$1,882.47	S	\$2,128.10	S	\$4,010.57
Carterton district	S	\$6,210.35	0	\$0	S	\$6,210.35
Central Hawke's bay district	3	\$5,421.08	9	\$19,083.32	12	\$24,504.40
Central Otago district	S	\$2,058.52	0	\$0	S	\$2,058.52
Christchurch city	69	\$128,895.32	72	\$146,200.79	141	\$275,096.11
Clutha district	3	\$4,311.83	0	\$2,093.31	3	\$6,405.14
Dunedin city	12	\$24,862.18	12	\$24,850.22	24	\$49,712.40
Far north district	126	\$251,447.48	114	\$229,594.02	240	\$481,041.50
Gisborne district	69	\$137,790.15	54	\$111,172.20	126	\$248,962.35
Gore district	0	\$2,824.88	6	\$6,384.30	6	\$9,209.18
Grey district	0	\$0	S	\$4,256.20	S	\$4,256.20
Hamilton city	96	\$178,928.86	93	\$191,539.90	192	\$370,468.76
Hastings district	57	\$111,757.25	54	\$109,195.98	111	\$220,953.23
Hauraki district	12	\$24,980.56	6	\$9,571.75	18	\$34,552.31
Horowhenua district	18	\$36,118.38	21	\$36,707.85	39	\$72,826.23
Hurunui district	S	\$4,186.62	0	\$0	S	\$4,186.62
Invercargill city	9	\$14,360.13	12	\$20,069.02	21	\$34,429.15
Kaikoura district	S	\$2,093.31	S	\$2,128.10	S	\$4,221.41
Kaipara district	21	\$35,074.18	9	\$21,246.21	30	\$56,320.39
Kapiti coast district	3	\$10,466.55	12	\$25,278.70	18	\$35,745.25
Kawerau district	12	\$22,852.46	15	\$29,584.66	27	\$52,437.12

Territorial Local Authority	Calendar Year				Total	
	2019		2020			
	Grants	Total Amount	Grants	Total Amount	Grants	Total Amount
Lower Hutt city	33	\$68,362.47	33	\$71,003.08	66	\$139,365.55
Manawatu district	9	\$18,769.90	6	\$12,664.23	15	\$31,434.13
Marlborough district	3	\$8,338.45	18	\$33,403.78	18	\$41,742.23
Masterton district	12	\$22,887.25	9	\$22,634.41	24	\$45,521.66
Matamata-Piako district	15	\$31,017.31	15	\$28,854.70	33	\$59,872.01
Napier city	33	\$62,768.51	45	\$87,717.96	75	\$150,486.47
Nelson city	6	\$11,694.94	0	\$2,128.10	6	\$13,823.04
New Plymouth district	33	\$60,870.01	18	\$35,103.35	48	\$95,973.36
Opotiki district	24	\$43,337.57	27	\$59,168.62	51	\$102,506.19
Otorohanga district	6	\$10,396.97	0	\$4,186.62	6	\$14,583.59
Palmerston north city	30	\$59,383.62	24	\$48,822.00	54	\$108,205.62
Porirua city	27	\$53,581.87	21	\$42,923.39	48	\$96,505.26
Rangitikei district	6	\$10,396.97	6	\$10,570.92	12	\$20,967.89
Rotorua district	72	\$143,958.56	69	\$138,770.86	141	\$282,729.42
Ruapehu district	15	\$29,424.94	9	\$20,064.23	24	\$49,489.17
Selwyn district	S	\$2,058.52	0	\$0	S	\$2,058.52
South Taranaki district	9	\$15,968.56	9	\$19,083.32	18	\$35,051.88
South Waikato district	27	\$58,040.52	15	\$28,815.94	42	\$86,856.46
South Wairarapa district	S	\$2,058.52	S	\$4,221.41	S	\$6,279.93
Southland district	S	\$2,093.31	S	\$1,504.95	S	\$3,598.26
Stratford district	3	\$7,264.05	0	\$0	6	\$7,264.05
Taranua district	9	\$16,236.52	9	\$16,955.22	18	\$33,191.74
Tasman district	3	\$9,108.64	6	\$8,512.40	12	\$17,621.04
Taupo district	33	\$67,610.07	21	\$44,803.23	57	\$112,413.30
Tauranga city	45	\$85,906.69	51	\$103,751.86	96	\$189,658.55
Thames-coromandel district	12	\$22,748.09	12	\$25,329.09	24	\$48,077.18
Timaru district	6	\$9,984.91	3	\$1,534.53	6	\$11,519.44
Unknown/other	3	\$6,245.14	3	\$6,349.51	6	\$12,594.65

Territorial Local Authority	Calendar Year				Total	
	2019		2020		Grants	Total Amount
	Grants	Total Amount	Grants	Total Amount		
Upper Hutt city	15	\$28,760.43	12	\$22,974.39	27	\$51,734.82
Waikato district	51	\$98,368.24	42	\$85,367.77	90	\$183,736.01
Waimakariri district	3	\$4,387.87	6	\$7,744.34	6	\$12,132.21
Waipa district	15	\$31,057.41	9	\$21,246.21	27	\$52,303.62
Wairoa district	24	\$44,618.98	12	\$26,882.57	36	\$71,501.55
Waitaki district	3	\$8,062.68	3	\$7,632.87	9	\$15,695.55
Waitomo district	15	\$25,658.77	12	\$21,462.85	24	\$47,121.62
Wellington City	21	\$37,696.41	24	\$47,675.03	42	\$85,371.44
Western Bay of Plenty district	21	\$42,801.28	15	\$27,410.15	36	\$70,211.43
Westland district	S	\$2,093.31	S	\$2,128.10	S	\$4,221.41
Whakatane district	57	\$115,256.78	54	\$113,212.97	111	\$228,469.75
Whanganui district	33	\$65,794.61	24	\$46,926.62	57	\$112,721.23
Whangarei district	69	\$135,470.86	66	\$129,094.24	135	\$264,565.10
Total	1,725	\$3,389,782.46	1,638	\$3,320,275.08	3,366	\$6,710,057.54

Notes:

- Calendar Year for the Ministry is from 01 January to 31 December.
- This is a count of grants not clients. A client may have more than one grant in a period.
- Territorial Local Authority is based upon the client's residential address at the time of the grant action.
- The ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity.
- The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct.
- While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
- 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'.