



01 JUN 2021

Dear

On 4 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information relating to young people currently on Jobseeker Support:

1. *Area of Focus: WBOP District Council Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, extending from Pahoia to Waihi Beach, with the Waipapa River being the Southern boundary.*
2. *Data Required: Jobseeker Support numbers for 16-24 year olds. (Subset of Males & Females would be helpful)*
3. *Data Frequency: Monthly*
4. *Data Period: January 2019 – Latest Available (March 2021 appears to be on-line currently)*
5. *Other: We would like to be able to continue to receive this data each month as it becomes available if that is feasible.*

Please see **Table One** below, which outlines the total number of 18-24 year olds receiving Jobseeker Support in the Western Bay of Plenty Territorial Land Authority (TLA) between January 2019 and March 2021, broken down by month and gender.

Table One: The total number of working age clients 18-24 year olds receiving Jobseeker Support in the Western Bay of Plenty TLA as at the end of each month between January 2019 and March 2021, broken down by month and gender.

Month Ending	Gender			Total
	Female	Male	Gender Diverse	
January 2019	84	75	0	156
February 2019	93	84	0	180
March 2019	78	60	0	135
April 2019	63	51	0	114
May 2019	57	48	0	105
June 2019	72	54	0	123
July 2019	87	72	0	156
August 2019	93	96	0	192
September 2019	111	102	0	213
October 2019	108	99	0	207

Month	Gender			Total
	Female	Male	Gender Diverse	
November 2019	105	84	0	189
December 2019	111	84	3	195
January 2020	111	90	0	198
February 2020	102	105	0	210
March 2020	96	93	0	189
April 2020	153	138	0	291
May 2020	159	147	0	306
June 2020	171	156	0	327
July 2020	165	171	0	336
August 2020	162	183	0	345
September 2020	171	213	0	381
October 2020	156	207	0	363
November 2020	165	189	3	357
December 2020	189	210	0	399
January 2021	183	216	3	402
February 2021	174	207	3	384
March 2021	129	138	3	270

Notes:

- Information on the number of clients identifying as Gender Diverse is included from December 2019 on.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- The data table has had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- 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 order to be eligible for Jobseeker Support, the applicant needs to be 18 years or older, therefore your request for data pertaining to Jobseeker Support recipients from age 16-18 is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The Ministry do provide assistance to 16-17 year olds through the Youth Payment and to 16-19 year olds through the Young Parent Payment. These payments are provided to qualifying recipients, who are typically undertaking or available for full-time education or training.

You can find more information about these payments at the following links, respectively:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/youth-payment.html
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/young-parent-payment.html

If you are interested in data pertaining to individuals receiving Youth Payments and the Young Parent Payments, we encourage you to lodge a new request, and the Ministry will supply this information to you.

Your request for the specific area of Western Bay of Plenty District Council Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, extending from Pahoia to Waihi Beach, with the Waipapa River being the Southern boundary is also refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the the lowest geographical boundary the Ministry reports on is by TLA. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files.

We welcome you to lodge a new request for the continued supply of this information as you require it. Alternatively, you can access the Ministry's most recent and archived benefit fact sheets at the following link: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html>.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

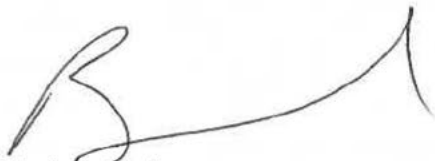
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 young people on Jobseeker Support, 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 be 'Bridget Saunders', written in a cursive style.

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