



11 MAR 2021

On 16 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Since its introduction how many individuals were receiving the Young Parent Payment each year ending December up to December 2020,*
2. *Please provide the data by gender, ethnicity and age,*
3. *What factors affect when a person receiving YPP moves to Sole Parent Support or other benefit, and*
4. *What current obligations do people receiving YPP have?*

The Ministry continuously looks at how to improve its services for young people. The Youth Service was established in August 2012, and incorporates both the Youth Payment and the Young Parent Payment (YPP)

The YPP is a weekly payment for 16 to 19 year old parents who have a dependent child or children, and are in need of financial assistance. More information about YPP can be found here: www.youthservice.govt.nz/payments/young-parent-payment/

A client receiving YPP will change to the Sole Parent Support (SPS) or other benefit when they meet the eligibility for this. Further information about YPP clients qualifying for another benefit can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/young-parent-payment/changes-and-reviews-young-parent-payment/qualifies-for-another-benefit-01.html.

Young people receiving YPP have the following obligations. They must:

- advise the Ministry of Social Development of any change in circumstances that affect their entitlement or rate of benefit payable,
- meet all of their activity obligations, and
- if they are a sole parent, apply for Child Support.

Further information regarding the current obligations, including the youth activity obligations for people receiving the YPP can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/young-parent-payment/obligations.html and here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/young-parent-payment/youth-activity-obligations-01.html.

Please find attached as Appendix A, the following three tables in response to questions one and two:

Table One: The number of clients receiving the Young Parent Payment as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Table Two: The number of clients receiving the Young Parent Payment as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by gender.

Table Three: The number of clients receiving the Young Parent Payment as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by age.

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 Young Parent Payment, 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 clients receiving the Young Parent Payment, as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Ethnicity	As at the end of December								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Māori	741	714	630	609	690	1,014	861	825	813
Pacific Peoples	162	132	141	114	132	183	174	165	183
NZ European	363	327	300	240	276	366	294	285	264
Other	66	60	48	42	57	60	45	39	36
Unspecified	30	45	54	42	135	240	297	267	234
Total	1,365	1,278	1,173	1,050	1,290	1,863	1,671	1,584	1,527

Notes:

- This is a number of clients.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual, as it fits their preference or self-concept.
- A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual.
- Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- This data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- 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 2 counts.

Table Two: The number of clients receiving the Young Parent Payment, as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by gender.

Gender	As at the end of December								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Female	1,296	1,191	1,086	978	1,203	1,749	1,590	1,509	1,464
Male	69	90	90	75	87	117	81	72	63
Total	1,365	1,281	1,173	1,050	1,290	1,866	1,671	1,581	1,530

Notes:

- This is a number of clients.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- This data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- 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 2 counts.

Table Three: The number of clients receiving the Young Parent Payment, as at the end of December 2012 to December 2020, broken down by age.

Age	As at the end of December								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
16	87	90	84	87	75	57	54	57	48
17	372	333	303	270	267	234	204	174	198
18-19	906	855	786	690	942	1,428	1,287	1,227	1,185
20-24	0	0	0	0	6	150	123	123	99
Total	1,365	1,281	1,173	1,050	1,290	1,863	1,671	1,581	1,530

Notes:

- This is a number of clients.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
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