



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

22 MAR 2021

On 8 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The Ministerial Directive on Advance Payment of Benefits*
- *Special Needs Grants Programme, and*
- *The Recoverable Assistance Programme*

You submitted your request directly to the Ministry. However, it was addressed to Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment. As the information requested is of a more operational nature, it is determined to be appropriate for the Ministry to respond directly.

The information you have requested is publicly available on the Work and Income website, and can be found at the following links:

Direction on Advance Payments of Instalments of Benefit

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/ministerial-directions/advance-payment-of-benefits-direction/advance-payment-of-benefits.html.

Special Needs Grants Programme

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/special-needs-grants-programme/special-needs-grants-programme.html.

Recoverable Assistance Programme

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/recoverable-assistance-programme/recoverable-assistance-programme.html.

As this information is published online, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information is publicly available.

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 relating to the Advance Payment of Benefits, Special Needs Grants Programme, and The Recoverable Assistance Programme, 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 blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a long horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Kate Satterthwaite
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services