



8 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 23 December 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Ethnic breakdowns for the Jobseeker Support (Incapacity Group) and Supported Living Payment (Incapacity Group) for each quarter for the previous five years.*
- *For instance, could I please obtain by ethnicity figures for the following:*
 - *Psychological or psychiatric conditions*
 - *Musculo-skeletal system disorders*
 - *Accidents*
 - *Cardio-vascular disorders*
 - *Pregnancy-related conditions*
 - *Other disorders and conditions.*

The Supported Living Payment (SLP) is a weekly payment to assist clients who have or are caring for someone with a significant health condition, injury, or disability, such that they are not likely to be able to work 15 hours or more per week within the next two years. In most cases, the decision to grant SLP is based on a work capacity assessment by a registered health practitioner. However, some clients with a specific diagnosis can access SLP without having a detailed assessment of their capacity to work (e.g., clients who are totally blind or terminally ill). More information about the Supported Living Payment can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html.

Jobseeker Support is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work, or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. More information about the Jobseeker Support can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html#null.

A person with a health condition or disability may be entitled to further assistance from Work and Income. You can find more information about health and disability-related assistance here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-related-benefits.html.

Please see **Table One** in the attached Excel spreadsheet, which shows the number of clients in receipt of the Supported Living Payment or Jobseeker Support (Health Condition and Disability) between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021, broken down by incapacity type, ethnicity of the client, and quarter.

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 and attachments *on* the Ministry'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 ethnic breakdowns for SLP and JS for the last five years, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

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