



15 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 11 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *At March 2022, regarding Jobseeker HCD clients with a primary incapacity of psychological and psychiatric conditions, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *At March 2022, regarding Supported Living Payment clients with a primary incapacity of psychological and psychiatric conditions, how many had children attached to their main benefit?*
- *Please provide the same data at March 2017 and 2013.*

On 17 June 2022, you agreed to refine your request to data as at March 2014 and March 2018, as these are the earliest comparable dates the Ministry can offer for your request.

Your questions seek information about the Ministry's Jobseeker Support and Supported Living Payment. You may be aware that from 15 July 2013, New Zealand's welfare system changed to better help people prepare for employment. The focus is on what people can do to achieve a better future for themselves and their family. Three benefits replaced most of the previous benefit types, including the types you requested information for. These are as follows:

- **Jobseeker Support (JS)** – Replaced the Unemployment Benefit, Sickness Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit (Women Alone, Sole Parent if youngest child is aged 14 and over) and the Widow's Benefit (without children, or if youngest child is aged 14 and over). JS is available to people who can usually work full-time. It also includes people who can only work part-time or can't look for work at the moment, for example because they have a health condition, injury or disability. More information about JS can be found [here](#):

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html).

- **Sole Parent Support (SPS)** – Replaced the Domestic Purposes Benefit (Sole Parent if youngest child is aged under 14) and the Widow's Benefit (if youngest child is aged under 14). SPS is available to sole parents caring for children under the age of 14 who are available for or are ready to prepare for part-time work. More information about SPS can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/sole-parent-support.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/sole-parent-support.html).

**Supported Living Payment (SLP)** – Replaced the Invalid's Benefit and Domestic Purposes Benefit (Caring for Sick or Infirm). The SLP is available to people who are severely restricted or unable to work on a long-term basis because of a health condition or disability, and for people who are caring for someone who needs significant care. More information about SLP can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html).

Please find the following two tables in response to your request, in **Appendix A**:

- **Table One:** Working age JS-HCD clients with the primary incapacity 'Psychological or psychiatric conditions', as at the end of March for the years 2014, 2018 and 2022, broken down by whether children are included in their benefit or not.
- **Table Two:** Working age SLP-HCD clients with the primary incapacity 'Psychological or psychiatric condition as at the end of March for the years 2014, 2018 and 2022, broken down by whether children are included in their benefit or not.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

*Bridget Saunders*

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**Manager Issue Resolution  
Service Delivery**