



26 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 23 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information for the last five years:

- *Data on the JS-HCD recipients (including how long recipients have been on the JS-HCD, type of incapacity, gender, age, ethnic group, geographic location (is it possible to do this can by DHB boundaries?), please exclude carer data if any).*
- *Data on the SLP recipients (including how long recipients have been on the SLP, type of incapacity, gender, age, ethnic group, geographic location (is it possible to do this can by DHB boundaries?), please exclude carer data).*
- *Data on the type of employment (ie. casual/part-time) undertaken by the SLP and JS-HCD recipients.*
- *Data on the type of work (ie. manufacturing/construction/retail/hospitality etc) undertaken by the SLP and JS-HCD recipients.*

On 31 May 2022, the Ministry contacted you clarify your request for information. On 1 June 2022 you confirmed that you would like to proceed with the following refinement:

1. *Could you advise if you have a specific location you are interested in? For instance, if you had a specific Territorial Local Authority (TLA)? As all TLA locations would take a bit of time to collate.*

Your response: If it is possible to gain all 20 DHBs that would be great. We understand this might be too great an undertaking. If this is the case, the national data and then just the data for the Waikato DHB

- would be great. Have attached the Waikato DHB boundary map if you need it.*
2. *I see you have noted that you would like the last five years of data. Would you be happy to have until the end of December 2021?*

Your response: *End of 2021 works*

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.
- **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.

For clarity I will address each of your questions in turn:

- *Data on the JS-HCD recipients (including how long recipients have been on the JS-HCD, type of incapacity, gender, age, ethnic group, geographic location (is it possible to do this can by DHB boundaries?), please exclude carer data if any).*
- *Data on the SLP recipients (including how long recipients have been on the SLP, type of incapacity, gender, age, ethnic group, geographic location (is it possible to do this can by DHB boundaries?), please exclude carer data).*

Please see **Appendix One**, within the attached Excel spreadsheet, which provides the following tables. Please note that Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is the standard regional geographical boundary used by the Ministry, we have not been able to provide a breakdown by District Health Board (DHB) but have provided you with data for all TLAs in New Zealand.

- **Table One:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Benefit who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by incapacity type, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Two:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Benefit who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by gender, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Three:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Benefit who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by age group, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Four:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Benefit who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by ethnic group, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Five:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Benefit who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by continuous duration group, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Six:** The number of current Working Age clients on Jobseeker Support Health Condition or Disability who were working part-time hours as at the end of each year from 2017 to 2021.
- **Table Seven:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment who have Health Condition or Disability as

- at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by incapacity type, year ending and territorial authority.
- **Table Eight:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by gender, year ending and territorial authority.
 - **Table Nine:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by age group, year ending and territorial authority.
 - **Table Ten:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by ethnic group, year ending and territorial authority.
 - **Table Eleven:** The number of Current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment who have Health Condition or Disability as at the end of December 2017 to December 2021, by continuous duration group, year ending and territorial authority.
 - **Table Twelve:** The number of current Working Age clients on Supported Living Payment Health Condition or Disability who were working part-time hours as at the end of each year from 2017 to 2021.
 - *Data on the type of employment (ie. casual/part-time) undertaken by the SLP and JS-HCD recipients.*

The Ministry reports on earnings declared by SLP and JS-HCD clients but cannot break this down by type (such as whether it is full-time, part-time, casual). Earnings may change week to week depending on the type of employment. Please see **Appendix One**, which provides the following tables.

- **Table Thirteen:** The number of Current Working Age clients in receipt of Jobseeker Support Health Condition or Disability with declared earnings, broken down by year ending from 2017 to 2021.
- **Table Fourteen:** The number of Current Working Age clients in receipt of Supported Living Payment Health Condition or Disability with declared earnings, broken down by year ending from 2017 to 2021.
- *Data on the type of work (ie. manufacturing/construction/retail/hospitality etc) undertaken by the SLP and JS-HCD recipients.*

In response to your request for data on the type of work undertaken by SLP and JS-HCD recipients, this information is held on individual client files. As such, this aspect of your request is refused under Section 18(f) of the Act as providing this data would require substantial manual collation of thousands of files.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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, 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

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**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**