



10 March 2022

Tēnā koe

On 16 February 2022, you emailed the Office of the Minister for Social Development and the Ministry of Education requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Statistics around how many Student Allowance Applications have been declined since 9 Nov 2020, and of those declined how many of them were declined under The Student Regulations 1998, Section 13(2)*

On 16 February 2022, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) in full for response because the information which your request relates to is operational.

Regulation 13(2)(a) of the Student Allowances Regulations 1998 states that no student is eligible for an allowance while that student's spouse or partner is receiving New Zealand Superannuation under the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001.

The following table provides the number of students declined a Student Allowance, and the number of students declined a Student Allowance for the reason that their spouse or partner was receiving New Zealand Superannuation (NZS).

Table One: The number of students declined a Student Allowance and the number of students declined for the reason that their spouse or partner was receiving NZS from 9 November 2020 to 21 February 2022

Reason	Total numbers
Students declined a Student Allowance	26,505
Students declined a Student Allowance for the reason that their spouse or partner was in receipt of NZS	15
Reason	Total numbers

Students declined a Student Allowance	26,505
Students declined a Student Allowance for the reason that their spouse or partner was in receipt of NZS	15

Notes for Table One:

- Declined means fully declined, i.e. there was no approved period in the application.
- Applications 'Closed as Incomplete' have not been included in the total.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

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'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



Jay Van Uffelen
General Manager
Centralised Services