



10 May 2022

Tēnā koe

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

- *How many people in NZ receive the NZ Super who are under the age of 65? (e.g. non-qualified partner) Please can I have this broken down by age group at ten year intervals. e.g. 55-64, 45-54 etc.*

Prior to 9 November 2020, clients in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) with a partner/spouse who did not qualify for NZS in their own right could include them in their payments as a non-qualified spouse/partner. This was provided they met the relevant criteria.

From 9 November 2020, clients who qualify for NZS in their own right can no longer apply to include their non-qualified partner in their payments. Couples already receiving the non-qualified partner rate of NZS as at 8 November 2020 were entitled to grandparenting of their payments effective from 9 November 2020. More information about this can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/new-zealand-superannuation/grandparenting-non-qualified-partner-couples-01.html

Please see below **Table One** which shows the number of non-qualified spouses/partners of clients receiving NZS, broken down by ten-year age brackets as at the end of March 2022.

Number of non-qualified spouses (NQS) aged under 65 years old as at the end of March 2022, broken down by age group

| Age Group | Benefit type |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | New Zealand Superannuation |
| 15 - 24 | 0 |
| 25 - 34 | 15 |
| 35 - 44 | 111 |
| 45 - 54 | 753 |
| 55 - 64 | 7,944 |
| Total | 8,823 |

Notes for Table One:

- NZS is New Zealand Superannuation.
- Entitlement age for NZS is 65, only NQS of NZS clients can be under the age of 65.
- As of 9 November 2020, the option to include a NQS into a NZS ceased.
- 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.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- 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 regarding NZ Superannuation and non-qualified spouses, 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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