



5 July 2023

Tēnā koe

On 22 June 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The total number of Community Service Card holders located in Canterbury, for the most recent month the data is available, if possible, broken down into Territorial Authorities.*

Community Service cards are available to low or middle income earners to enable them and their family to access to subsidised health services, and from August 2023 will enable card holders to access half price public transport. Clients getting an income-tested benefit are automatically issued a Community Services Card. Information about others who can apply and what the Community Service Card can help with can be found here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html>

MSD also provides those on New Zealand Superannuation (over 65's) an option to apply for a 'combo card'. This is a card which combines the functions of both the SuperGold card and the Community Services Card. The Senior Support Centre is responsible for the distribution and administration of the 'combo card' as the granting of the Community Services Card portion is subject to an income test. More information about the Super Gold Card and how it works with the Community Service Card can be found here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/community-services-card-and-supergold-card.html>

Please find the attached **Appendix** containing the number of Community Service Card holders in Canterbury, as at 31 May 2023, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and card type.

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 Community Service Card holders in Canterbury, 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**

Appendix: Number of Community Service Card holders in Canterbury as at 31 May 2023, broken down by TLA and card type.

TLA	Number of Card Holders	
	Community Services Card only	Super Gold Card/Community Services Card
Ashburton District	2,715	3,171
Christchurch City	52,953	30,747
Hurunui District	1,053	1,230
Kaikoura District	405	420
Mackenzie District	258	288
Selwyn District	4,356	2,937
Timaru District	4,611	5,301
Waimakariri District	5,571	6,057
Waimate District	771	1,113
Waitaki District	2,244	3,027
Card Type Total	74,943	54,288

Notes:

- This report includes Community Service Cards and the Community Service and Super Gold Card combo that have been issued or reissued.
- Territorial Local Authority is estimated based on the client's address.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- There data tables have had a random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.