



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*What ministry of social development financial support services are the following health conditions currently eligible for and what is the total annual funding allocation for support services for each condition:*

*Autism*

*Breast Cancer*

*Diabetes*

*Fibromyalgia*

*Long COVID*

*Multiple Sclerosis (MS)*

*Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)*

*Parkinson's disease*

*Rheumatoid Arthritis*

*What percentage of cases of the following conditions are declined support services per year and what are the grounds for declining eligibility for MSD support for these conditions?*

*Autism*

*Breast Cancer*

*Diabetes*

*Fibromyalgia*

*Long COVID*

*Multiple Sclerosis (MS)*

*Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)*

*Parkinson's disease*

*Rheumatoid Arthritis*

*What percentage of MSD financial support applications per year are from individuals with the following health conditions?*

*Autism*

*Breast Cancer*

*Diabetes*

*Fibromyalgia*  
*Long COVID*  
*Multiple Sclerosis (MS)*  
*Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)*  
*Parkinson's disease*  
*Rheumatoid Arthritis*

*What is the total average weekly financial support that people with each of the following health conditions are eligible for?*

*Autism*  
*Breast Cancer*  
*Diabetes*  
*Fibromyalgia*  
*Long COVID*  
*Multiple Sclerosis (MS)*  
*Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)*  
*Parkinson's disease*  
*Rheumatoid Arthritis*

On 5 October 2023, the Ministry contacted you about your request to let you know that only limited data for three conditions (MS, Diabetes and Parkinson's) could be provided, as the Ministry does not report on the other conditions listed. Subsequently you agreed to refine your request, to provide a data table showing the number of working age Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support clients by quarter for the last two years for the three conditions that are available. Please see the table in the attached **Appendix**.

In regard to your first question, the Ministry provides different types of financial support for people affected by health conditions including those listed in your request. Different types of support are available depending on a person's circumstances and include:

Disability Allowance (DA) – a non-taxable supplementary assistance payment to people who have ongoing, additional costs because of a disability. More information about DA can be found here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/introduction.html)

Child Disability Allowance (CDA) – a non-taxable allowance available to the principal caregiver of a dependent child who has a serious disability. It is paid because of extra care that may be needed. The caregiver may also be able to receive a Disability Allowance to meet any additional costs the child has because of their disability. More information about CDA can be found here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/introduction.html)

Jobseeker Health Condition, Injury and Disability (JS-HCD) – Jobseeker Support can be paid to someone on the ground of a health condition, injury or

disability. The person must be limited in their capacity or unable to work full-time, or in employment but can only work at a reduced level. More information about JS-HCD can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/client-has-a-health-condition-injury-or-disability-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/client-has-a-health-condition-injury-or-disability-01.html)

Supported Living Payment (SLP) – paid for people who are not able to work because they are: permanently and severely restricted in their capacity for work because of a health condition, injury or disability or totally blind; or caring for a person who requires full-time care and attention at home. More information about SLP can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/introduction.html)

Temporary Additional Support (TAS) – is a non-taxable extra help paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with regular essential living costs. This can include costs for health and disability that aren't covered by other payments. At the end of 13-weeks a client must reapply for this assistance. More information about TAS can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/health-and-disability-costs-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/health-and-disability-costs-01.html)

In addition to these supports, people may also be able to claim hardship assistance for one off costs associated with health conditions, injuries or disability. More information on hardship assistance can be found here:

- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html)
- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/index.html)
- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/index.html)

A full list of benefits and payments paid by the Ministry can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html).

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding financial support services for people with health conditions, 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*

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager Issues Resolution**

## Appendix

### Number of current working age Supported Living Payment Health Condition and Disability, and Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability related clients, by quarter ending, and condition.

As at quarter ending	Diabetes	Multiple Sclerosis	Parkinson's Disease
June 2021	3,195	765	255
September 2021	3,204	768	264
December 2021	3,186	765	267
March 2022	3,102	771	279
June 2022	3,072	777	285
September 2022	3,090	771	270
December 2022	3,033	786	270
March 2023	2,991	780	282
June 2023	3,084	771	279

#### Notes

- Working age are clients aged 18 to 64 years.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability, and Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability Hardship.

#### Confidentiality

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development 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 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.