



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

27 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 4 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *how many families nationwide have children of student age in a household who:*
 - *Rely on financial support from Work and Income, and*
 - *Seek support with school stationery costs.*

To answer your request, we are providing two tables in the attached **Appendix**.

Table One answers your first question and shows the number of people who are of working age (ie. 18 to 64 years old) who receive a main benefit, and who have at least one dependent child aged 5 to 18 years old.

Table Two shows the number of Hardship Grants for the reason 'school stationery' and answers your second question. This table shows all the grants given specifically for school stationery to those who have sought this support irrespective of what benefit, if any, the person was receiving. It also covers a person who received assistance for stationery but who may not be of working age and would therefore not be included in **Table One**.

You may be interested to know there is also a School and Year Start-Up payment for people who are receiving the Unsupported Child's Benefit or Orphan's Benefit. This is a once-a-year payment and this payment is to help with the costs that mostly happen at the beginning of the year, in particular pre-school and school-related costs such as clothing, school fees and stationery. If you are interested in this information, you are welcome to make a new request for this information, however, please note the data Ministry can report on in regard to this payment type does not break down what this payment is specifically used for, ie. school stationery.

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 stationery assistance, 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

Table One: The number of working-age people in receipt of main benefits with at least one dependent child aged 5-18 years as at the end of each month January 2022 to August 2023.

Month End	Benefits
January 2022	60,873
February 2022	60,048
March 2022	59,526
April 2022	59,685
May 2022	59,763
June 2022	59,865
July 2022	60,204
August 2022	60,210
September 2022	60,510
October 2022	60,483
November 2022	60,615
December 2022	60,081
January 2023	60,141
February 2023	59,838
March 2023	59,730
April 2023	59,832
May 2023	60,078
June 2023	60,615
July 2023	61,029
August 2023	61,392

Notes

- Working age is 18-64 years old.
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- 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 published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Table Two: The number of Hardship Grants granted for 'school stationery' as at the end of each month January 2022 to August 2023.

Month	Hardship Grants
January 2022	4,005
February 2022	5,070
March 2022	609
April 2022	240
May 2022	405
June 2022	201
July 2022	171
August 2022	264
September 2022	129
October 2022	90
November 2022	84
December 2022	84
January 2023	5,046
February 2023	3,939
March 2023	621
April 2023	216
May 2023	315
June 2023	162
July 2023	207
August 2023	204

Notes

- The hardship grants included in this table are Advances and Recoverable Assistance Payments.
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- 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.