



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

28 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 31 August 2023, your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response. You requested the following information about the International Custody Dispute Payment:

1. *from 2010 to 2022 how many applications were submitted for this payment in New Zealand.*
2. *from 2010 - 2022 how many applications submitted were successful in obtaining payments*
3. *What country was the "applicant" applying from? Eg was it a parent here in New Zealand, or a parent that is in Australia but is a New Zealand citizen and stuck in Australia from The Hague Convention?*

The International Custody Dispute Payment is a non-recoverable Special Needs Grant (SNG). It is paid to a parent who is awaiting the outcome of an international custody dispute, has no other means of support (such as work, support from their government or family, or other support from New Zealand) and is facing financial hardship.

More information on the International Custody Dispute Payment can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/international-custody-dispute-payment-sng.html.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for the following table:

- **Table One:** The number of applications processed (grants + declines) for International Custody Dispute Payments during the period 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022, by year and country.

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 International Custody Dispute Payments, 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 Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**