



Dear

On 20 May 2016 your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development and you requested, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of children in New Zealand who receive the Child Disability Allowance due to a diagnosis of each of these disabilities or category of disability:*
 - *Autistic Spectrum Disorder;*
 - *Dyslexia;*
 - *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder;*
 - *A learning disability;*
 - *Communication or behaviour support needs.*
- *Please also provide the same for people receiving the Disability Allowance.*

Child Disability Allowance (CDA) is a non-taxable allowance available to the primary caregiver of a child who is diagnosed with a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability. CDA is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested. It is usually paid to the primary carer in recognition of the extra care they provide to a child with a severe medical condition compared to that required for a child of a similar age who is not impaired. It is not related to any particular financial costs incurred in relation to the child's disability.

People may also be eligible to receive a Disability Allowance (DA) to meet any additional costs the dependent child may have due to their disability. Disability Allowance is an income tested, non-taxable form of financial assistance available to people and their dependent children who have on-going additional costs resulting from a disability.

A number of factors are considered when assessing a person's eligibility for these allowances and further details about criteria and payment are available on the Work and Income website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz

I am unable to provide you with a breakdown CDA and DA in the manner you have requested as this is not captured specifically in the categories you listed. This information is held in notes on individual case files, in order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I have provided you with two tables below that show the number of CDA and DA allowance payments made broken down by CDA disability type and DA incapacity group.

Table one: Child Disability Allowance broken down by type as at the end of March 2016.

Child Disability Type	Number of Allowances
Physical	17,996
Mental	8,913
Physical and Mental	7,833
Total	34,742

Note:

- This is a count of children generating an allowance. A client may receive more than one allowance for multiple children in their care.

Table two: Disability Allowance payments broken down by incapacity group as at the end of March 2016.

Incapacity group	Disability Allowance paid			
	Client	Partner	Child	Total
Accident	7,602	169	65	7,836
Blood and blood forming organs	837	25	25	887
Cancer	5,998	94	51	6,143
Cardio-vascular disorders	59,914	710	149	60,773
Congenital conditions	1,779	13	426	2,218
Digestive system disorders	3,648	120	755	4,523
Genito-urinary disorders	2,626	77	209	2,912
Immune system disorders	1,303	20	154	1,477
Infectious/parasitic diseases	460	15	16	491
Intellectual disability	2,716	13	263	2,992
Metabolic & endocrine disorders	19,729	686	230	20,645
Musculo-skeletal sys. disorder	33,156	685	186	34,027
Nervous system disorders	13,414	193	459	14,066

Incapacity group	Disability Allowance paid			
	Client	Partner	Child	Total
Psychological or psychiatric conditions	51,732	1,242	1,579	54,553
Respiratory disorders	10,735	252	1,578	12,565
Sensory disorders	6,413	90	302	6,805
Skin disorders	1,262	39	781	2,082
Substance abuse	S	41	S	2,109
Unspecified	S	0	S	24
Total	225,407	4,484	7,237	237,128

Notes:

- Incapacity type is based on client's primary incapacity.
- DA provides non-taxable assistance to people who have on-going, additional costs because of a disability.
- A client may be receiving DA for themselves, their partner or a dependent child, in which case they are counted more than once in the total.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect clients' privacy.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery