



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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Dear Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)

On 20 November 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of people on the unemployment or sickness benefit over the last ten years: broken down by gender and race, and the total costs for each benefit, each year.*
- *The number of people requiring a housing assistance benefit over the last 10 years: broken down by gender and race, and the total costs for each benefit, each year.*

Please note that on 15 July 2013, the Government introduced Welfare Reform changes which meant that Unemployment Benefit and Sickness Benefit were replaced by Job Seeker Support and Supported Living Payments. More information about the changes is available at the following link:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/welfare-reform/july-2013/index.html.

Information about Accommodation Supplement, including the entry thresholds and maximum payable rates, is available at:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html

Information about Income Related Rent Subsidy's can be found on the Ministry's website at:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/income-related-rent-subsidy/introduction.html

You may also be interested in the benefit statistics that are published quarterly on the Ministry's website at:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html.

Please find attached three tables that provide you with the information you have requested:

- Table One: The number of working age clients in receipt of an Unemployment Benefit and Sickness Benefit related benefits at the end of September 2007 to 2016 broken down by ethnic group and gender
- Table Two: The number of clients receiving an Accommodation Supplement at the end of September 2007 to 2016 broken down by ethnic group and gender
- Table Three: The total expenditure for Jobseeker support, Sickness Benefit, Unemployment Benefit, Accommodation Assistance and Income Related Rent Subsidy for the financial year from 2006/07 to 2015/16

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 after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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, 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.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table One: The number of working age clients on Jobseeker Support Work Ready (JS), Jobseeker Support Health Care and Disability (JS HC&D), Unemployment Benefit (UB) and Sickness Benefit (SB) related benefits at the end of September, from 2007 to 2016 broken down by ethnic group and gender.

Date	Ethnic Group	Gender	JS HC&D related	JS Work Ready related	SB related	UB related	Total
Sep-07	Maori	Female	0	0	5,613	2,748	8,361
		Male	0	0	7,472	5,976	13,448
	Pacific Island	Female	0	0	1,355	569	1,924
		Male	0	0	1,888	1,239	3,127
	NZ European	Female	0	0	9,789	2,798	12,587
		Male	0	0	13,960	6,424	20,384
	Other	Female	0	0	3,763	1,095	4,858
		Male	0	0	4,221	1,957	6,178
	Unspecified	Female	0	0	503	147	650
		Male	0	0	431	205	636
Sep-08	Maori	Female	0	0	5,515	2,704	8,219
		Male	0	0	7,528	6,243	13,771
	Pacific Island	Female	0	0	1,282	656	1,938
		Male	0	0	1,887	1,361	3,248
	NZ European	Female	0	0	9,405	2,564	11,969
		Male	0	0	13,931	6,499	20,430
	Other	Female	0	0	3,602	868	4,470
		Male	0	0	4,062	1,908	5,970
	Unspecified	Female	0	0	510	201	711
		Male	0	0	486	269	755

Sep-09	Maori	Female		0	0	6,046	5,770	11,816
		Male		0		9,033	15,166	24,199
	Pacific Island	Female		0		1,424	1,896	3,320
		Male		0		2,148	4,565	6,713
	NZ European	Female		0		10,770	6,080	16,850
		Male		0		17,122	18,005	35,127
	Other	Female		0		3,909	1,936	5,845
		Male		0		4,588	5,235	9,823
	Unspecified	Female		0		653	686	1,339
		Male		0		691	1,321	2,012
Sep-10	Maori	Female		0		6,306	6,568	12,874
		Male		0		9,376	16,595	25,971
	Pacific Island	Female		0		1,506	2,079	3,585
		Male		0		2,172	4,678	6,850
	NZ European	Female		0		11,300	6,582	17,882
		Male		0		17,618	19,056	36,674
	Other	Female		0		4,177	2,222	6,399
		Male		0		4,797	5,640	10,437
	Unspecified	Female		0		671	667	1,338
		Male		0		738	1,194	1,932
Sep-11	Maori	Female		0		6,625	5,898	12,523
		Male		0		9,591	14,245	23,836
	Pacific Island	Female		0		1,514	1,617	3,131
		Male		0		2,224	3,457	5,681
	NZ European	Female		0		11,185	6,179	17,364
		Male		0		17,102	16,305	33,407

Sep-11	Other	Female	0	0	4,363	2,070	6,433
		Male	0	0	4,768	4,577	9,345
	Unspecified	Female	0	0	614	476	1,090
		Male	0	0	665	837	1,502
	Maori	Female	0	0	6,882	5,936	12,818
		Male	0	0	9,701	13,336	23,037
	Pacific Island	Female	0	0	1,604	1,498	3,102
		Male	0	0	2,389	3,083	5,472
	NZ European	Female	0	0	11,448	5,471	16,919
		Male	0	0	16,954	14,074	31,028
	Other	Female	0	0	4,518	1,819	6,337
		Male	0	0	4,906	4,189	9,095
	Unspecified	Female	0	0	574	339	913
		Male	0	0	619	645	1,264
	Maori	Female	7,001	11,000	0	0	18,001
		Male	9,096	15,180	0	0	24,276
	Pacific Island	Female	1,523	2,664	0	0	4,187
		Male	2,170	3,189	0	0	5,359
	NZ European	Female	11,794	11,599	0	0	23,393
		Male	15,839	14,583	0	0	30,422
	Other	Female	4,733	4,189	0	0	8,922
		Male	4,621	4,619	0	0	9,240
	Unspecified	Female	519	834	0	0	1,353
		Male	569	748	0	0	1,317

Sep-14	Maori	Female	7,155	11,278	0	0	18,433
		Male	8,611	15,731	0	0	24,342
	Pacific Island	Female	1,620	2,533	0	0	4,153
		Male	1,996	3,014	0	0	5,010
	NZ European	Female	11,931	9,992	0	0	21,923
		Male	14,644	14,185	0	0	28,829
	Other	Female	4,872	3,750	0	0	8,622
		Male	4,462	4,841	0	0	9,303
	Unspecified	Female	545	689	0	0	1,234
		Male	543	741	0	0	1,284
	Maori	Female	7,261	11,478	0	0	18,739
		Male	8,549	16,194	0	0	24,743
Sep-15	Pacific Island	Female	1,604	2,343	0	0	3,947
		Male	1,892	2,698	0	0	4,590
	NZ European	Female	11,690	9,103	0	0	20,793
		Male	14,054	14,416	0	0	28,470
	Other	Female	4,790	3,289	0	0	8,079
		Male	4,284	4,741	0	0	9,025
	Unspecified	Female	533	671	0	0	1,204
		Male	512	799	0	0	1,311

Sep-16	Maori	Female	7,679	11,929	0	0	19,608
		Male	8,624	16,003	0	0	24,627
	Pacific Island	Female	1,776	2,477	0	0	4,253
		Male	2,039	2,776	0	0	4,815
	NZ European	Female	11,310	8,218	0	0	19,528
		Male	13,392	13,208	0	0	26,600
	Other	Female	5,139	3,500	0	0	8,639
		Male	4,615	5,007	0	0	9,622
	Unspecified	Female	747	1,269	0	0	2,016
		Male	848	1,728	0	0	2,576

Notes:

- Jobseeker Support consists of JS Work Ready Training related, and JS Work Ready related.
- UB related is Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship.
- SB related is Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship.
- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct this table necessarily aligns neatly with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded in MSD's systems have been gathered under a variety of classification schemes as clients came into contact with the Ministry.
- On 15 July 2013, the Welfare Reform changes came into place and UB and SB were replaced by Job Seeker Support.
- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).

Table Two: The number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement at the end of September 2007 to September 2016 broken down by ethnic group and gender.

Ethnic Group	Gender	Sep-07	Sep-08	Sep-09	Sep-10	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16
Māori	Female	43,880	45,596	51,252	54,335	53,210	53,821	53,012	52,919	53,568	53,148
	Male	22,594	24,355	35,340	37,639	34,955	34,734	33,404	33,619	34,402	33,952
Pacific Island	Female	10,252	10,732	12,593	13,270	12,081	11,934	11,271	10,948	10,904	12,146
	Male	5,650	6,237	9,366	9,689	8,442	8,461	7,736	7,380	7,261	7,645
NZ European	Female	73,826	75,247	82,737	84,956	83,589	81,970	79,645	77,440	76,316	71,025
	Male	41,020	43,212	57,931	60,439	57,145	55,189	53,308	52,155	52,754	49,849
Other	Female	23,130	24,305	27,114	28,722	28,971	29,098	28,892	28,911	28,862	30,565
	Male	17,489	18,524	22,860	24,013	23,012	22,843	22,354	22,060	22,552	23,857
Unspecified	Female	5,999	6,155	6,769	6,572	5,804	5,267	4,811	4,447	4,317	5,382
	Male	2,584	2,773	3,970	3,843	3,197	2,921	2,746	2,667	2,634	3,783
Total		246,424	257,136	309,932	323,478	310,406	306,238	297,179	292,546	293,570	291,352

Notes:

- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct this table necessarily aligns neatly with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded in MSD's systems have been gathered under a variety of classification schemes as clients came into contact with the Ministry.
- Accommodation Supplement is paid weekly for rent, mortgage or board.
- The number of recipients of Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an accommodation supplement for their housing purposes. It is not necessarily a count of households.
- This is for all benefits including NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance.
- This includes all ages.

Table Three: The total expenditure for Jobseeker Support, Sickness Benefit, Unemployment Benefit, Accommodation Assistance and Income Related Rent Subsidy for the financial year from 2006/07 to 2015/16.

Benefit Type	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit								\$1,691.0m	\$1,683.9m	\$1,671.3m
Sickness Benefit	\$572.7m	\$581.9m	\$613.5m	\$709.8m	\$742.7m	\$774.7m	\$782.4m	\$29.2m		
Unemployment Benefit	\$612.5m	\$457.7m	\$585.9m	\$930.3m	\$942.8m	\$883.4m	\$811.9m	\$28.5m		
Accommodation Assistance	\$877.2m	\$891.2m	\$989.4m	\$1,153.6m	\$1,196.7m	\$1,194.8m	\$1,177.3m	\$1,145.9m	\$1,128.8m	\$1,163.7m
Income Related Rental Subsidy								\$149.6m*	\$703.2m	\$755.3m
Total	\$2,062.371m	\$1,930.728m	\$2,188.724m	\$2,793.656m	\$2,882.235m	\$2,852.860m	\$2,771.704m	\$3,044.284m	\$3,515.933m	\$3,590.257m

Notes:

- * Income Related Rent Subsidy for 2013/14 is a partial year's expenditure. The Ministry took over the appropriation in April 2014, prior expenditure is reported by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
- Accommodation Assistance is 99% Accommodation Supplement expenditure, but also includes a small amount of expenditure on Special Transfer Allowance.
- Jobseeker Support consists of JS HC&D (Health Care and Disability), JS Work Ready Training related, and JS Work Ready related.
- Unemployment Benefit includes Unemployment Benefit Hardship.
- Sickness Benefit includes Sickness Benefit Hardship.
- On 15 July 2013, the Welfare Reform changes came into place and Unemployment Benefit and Sickness Benefit were replaced by Job Seeker Support.