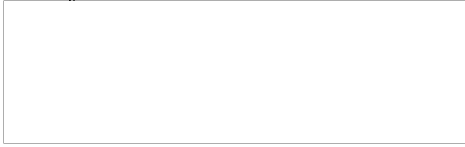




- 4 MAY 2017



Dear

On 30 March 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Any estimates of how many people or what percentage of people charged with a crime in the Youth Court are likely/estimated to be on the FASD spectrum.*
- *Any information relating to recidivism rates among youth officially diagnosed with FASD.*
- *How many people receiving any kind of benefit have been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder?*

As you are aware, clients receiving health-related benefits have a signed medical certificate from an independent health practitioner, which states the primary reason they are not able to work.

A client's primary condition may be recorded as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, but there are often other associated conditions the person may also be managing. These people are encouraged to access appropriate services, often as part of a broader package of assistance to help them move into employment. Interventions may be contracted through Work and Income providers or through services funded by the Ministry of Health. These include but are not limited to community based counselling services. The client's health practitioner may also suggest interventions that could improve the client's ability to work.

Please find the table below that shows the number of working age clients who have identified having Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as the primary incapacity reason as at 31 March 2017 broken down by benefit received.

**Table one: Number of working age clients with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in receipt of a benefit as at the end of March 2017**

Benefit	Number of clients
Supported Living Payment	78
Jobseeker Support	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

**Notes:**

- Working age are those clients between the age of 18 to 64.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder may not be the primary incapacity of the client.

I am unable to provide you with the number of people who are charged with a crime in the Youth Court or recidivism rates with people who have been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as this information is on individual case files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as the collation of the information would require manual collation of thousands of individuals files.

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.

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 shortly. 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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**