



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

26 JAN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 9 January 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *the number of people who have received MSD support (both Advance Payment and RAP) to purchase a hearing aid(s) over a 5 year period (2012-2016) (a ten year period, 2007-2016, would be better if that was possible).*
- *aggregated information about the age, gender and ethnicity of these people, plus Work and Income region*

As you are aware, the Ministry can provide assistance towards the purchase of hearing aids for clients that meet all qualifications, including an income and assets test. For clients who are in receipt of a benefit this is through an Advance Payment of Benefit, further information on which may be found at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/advance-payment-of-benefit.html. Eligible clients who are not in receipt of a benefit may be granted a Recoverable Assistance Payment, further information on which can be found at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/recoverable-assistance-payment-grant.html.

Tables 1-4 attached show the number of hearing aids applications granted by Work and Income from 2012 to 2017, broken down by region, age, ethnic group and gender. Please note that this is a count of grants, not a count of clients.

Prior to 2012, hearing aids grants were recorded under "dentures, glasses and hearing aids" and are not able to be separated out. As such the Ministry is unable to provide you with the ten year figures that you would have preferred.

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 and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal

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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 the number of grants for hearing aids, 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 1: Number of hearing aids grant applications granted by Work and Income region as at the end of December from 2012 to 2017.

Work and Income region	2012 *	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Northland	36	37	37	94	107	92
Auckland Metro	252	147	192	387	467	558
Waikato	93	62	50	130	164	196
Taranaki	58	40	41	79	108	104
Bay of Plenty	68	83	75	152	190	167
East Coast	68	67	57	83	151	143
Central	63	51	32	106	135	154
Wellington	69	64	45	135	129	145
Nelson	12	19	22	39	52	70
Canterbury	65	60	42	129	121	139
Southern	39	31	23	75	96	103
Other	787	912	912	198	27	26
Total	1,610	1,573	1,528	1,607	1,747	1,897

Table 2: Number of hearing aids grant applications granted by Ethnic Group as at the end of December from 2012 to 2017.

Ethnic Group	2012 *	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Māori	560	545	539	510	628	649
New Zealand Pākehā	629	593	576	670	649	738
Pacific Peoples	137	109	127	122	165	164
Unspecified	119	126	108	89	87	68
Other	165	200	178	216	218	278
Total	1,610	1,573	1,528	1,607	1,747	1,897

Note:

- It cannot be assumed that the ethnicity classification used to construct this table necessarily aligns 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.

Table 3: Number of hearing aids grant applications granted by gender as at the end of December from 2012 to 2017.

Gender	2012 *	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Female	928	898	971	993	1,111	1,227
Male	682	675	557	614	636	670
Total	1,610	1,573	1,528	1,607	1,747	1,897

***Year ending December 12 only includes Grants from 01 February 2012.**

Table 4: Number of hearing aids grant application granted by Age as at the end of December from 2012 to 2017.

Age Group	2012 *	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
17-19	S	S	S	S	7	S
20-24	20	S	S	S	13	S
25-29	21	22	17	24	17	30
30-34	S	23	19	25	27	22
35-39	29	41	29	26	43	29
40-44	48	38	32	42	45	45
45-49	84	65	75	57	66	70
50-54	113	96	104	94	98	107
55-59	152	127	115	140	153	189
60-64	203	189	177	149	202	223
65+	917	949	940	1,028	1,076	1,157
Total	1,610	1,573	1,528	1,607	1,747	1,897

Note:

- 'S' indicates data suppressed in order to protect clients privacy.

***Year ending December 12 only includes Grants from 01 February 2012.**