



30 JAN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 15 December 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding Child Support. For clarity your questions are responded to in turn.

- *How many welfare beneficiaries are recipients of Child Support?*
- *How many beneficiaries pay Child Support*
- *How much on average is paid in benefits to those beneficiaries who pay Child Support?*

The Ministry does not hold this information. I understand that Inland Revenue has received the first two questions and will be providing you with the information requested.

While the Ministry does not hold the specific information you have asked for, I can provide you with the table below, which shows the weekly amount of benefits and other supplementary payments made to current clients with a redirection for Child Support as at the end of September 2017. This is broken down by benefit group, but does not include clients who pay Child Support through other means.

Benefit Group	Number	Basic benefit net rate	Rate of other supplementaries combined
Supported Living Payment	6,576	\$1,784,372.90	\$544,348.36
New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension	893	\$307,748.72	\$21,858.44
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	308	\$99,971.64	\$48,524.43
Sole Parent Support	7,607	\$2,401,727.41	\$1,463,978.73
Youth Payment/ Young Parent Payment	35	\$9,617.67	\$4,423.27
Jobseeker Support/ Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	20,415	\$4,443,265.92	\$1,535,225.00
Emergency Benefit	97	\$20,397.35	\$5,178.77
Total	35,931	\$9,067,101.61	\$3,623,537.00

Note:

- This includes clients of all ages and all benefits or pensions.
- This table could include a small number of partner's records.
- Other supplementaries includes Accommodation Supplement, Disability Allowance and Temporary Additional support, as well as all other supplementary payments.

- *How much on average is paid in benefits to those beneficiaries who receive Child Support?*

Child Support collected by Inland Revenue where the child's caregiver receives a benefit is paid to the Crown to offset the benefits being paid. Any Child Support in excess of the benefit rate will be paid directly to the client by Inland Revenue.

However, whether a client is receiving Child Support is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with the requested information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files to determine which clients receive Child Support and then collate the benefits they are paid. 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.

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 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.

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