



1 JUN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 3 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to request a list of all supplementary payments and thresholds that are not regularly adjusted (referred to on page 19 of the Briefing to the Incoming Minister 2017). Alongside each of the supplementary payments/thresholds on the list, I would like details around when they were last adjusted. I would like further details about what the payment amount is/threshold is for each of the supplementary payments/thresholds in the list.*

On 25 May 2018, the Ministry provided you with a list of the seven main supplementary payments and thresholds referred to in the Briefing that are not adjusted annually, including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds.

Enclosed is a table that shows the full list of supplementary payments and thresholds that are not annually adjusted for inflation, including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds.

The Winter Energy Payment and the Best Start tax credit have been introduced through the Families Package and will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

The Winter Energy Payment will help people receiving a main benefit or New Zealand Superannuation with the cost of heating their homes during winter. The rates are set at \$20.46 per week for a single person and \$31.82 per week for clients with a partner or dependent children. For 2018, it will be paid from 1 July to 30 September.

Information regarding the four areas used for the calculation of the Away from Home Allowance is available at www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html.

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 attachment 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 regarding supplementary and thresholds that are not regularly adjusted to inflation, 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,



 Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

The table shows supplementary payments and thresholds that are not annually adjusted to inflation, including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds.

Payments and thresholds not adjusted each year for inflation	Last adjusted	Amount																				
Supported Living Payment (personal earnings exemption)	15 July 2013 (commencement date of new social security benefits)	The Supported Living Payment has a personal earnings exemption of up to \$20 gross a week.																				
Home Help Programme (cash asset limit)	13 August 2004	The maximum cash asset threshold is \$4,300 for a single person and \$7,464 if the client is married, in a civil union or de facto relationship, or is a sole parent.																				
Community Costs Programme (maximum payment)	1 April 2006 (commencement date)	The maximum amount payable is \$300 per week. However, Service Managers can approve payments of over \$300 per week for clients with exceptional circumstances.																				
Civilian Amputee Assistance	Reimbursement is based on actual costs	Clients who have to attend an appointment at a limb centre are reimbursed for the actual costs to attend the appointment. This includes travel, accommodation, meals and loss of earnings if there is no sick leave available. There is no set maximum for this payment.																				
Student Accommodation Benefit	1 April 2018	The maximum amount of Student Accommodation Benefit was increased from \$40 to \$60 per week.																				
Away from Home Allowance (maximums)	1 April 2018 (when Accommodation Supplement maximums were increased)	<p>The Away from Home Allowance was introduced on 1 January 1998 and was set at the same rates as Accommodation Supplement.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of people in household</th> <th>Area 1 Maximum</th> <th>Area 2 Maximum</th> <th>Area 3 Maximum</th> <th>Area 4 Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>\$165</td> <td>\$105</td> <td>\$80</td> <td>\$70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$235</td> <td>\$155</td> <td>\$105</td> <td>\$80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3+</td> <td>\$305</td> <td>\$220</td> <td>\$160</td> <td>\$120</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of people in household	Area 1 Maximum	Area 2 Maximum	Area 3 Maximum	Area 4 Maximum	1	\$165	\$105	\$80	\$70	2	\$235	\$155	\$105	\$80	3+	\$305	\$220	\$160	\$120
Number of people in household	Area 1 Maximum	Area 2 Maximum	Area 3 Maximum	Area 4 Maximum																		
1	\$165	\$105	\$80	\$70																		
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3+	\$305	\$220	\$160	\$120																		
Participation Allowance	1 October 1998 (commencement date)	The amount is set at \$21 per week to cover costs associated with participating in community work projects. An additional \$10 per week can be claimed if actual costs of attendance exceeded \$21.																				
In-Hand Allowance (Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment recipients)	20 August 2012 (commencement date)	Under the money management model, a weekly in-hand allowance of \$50 is paid directly into the back accounts of all Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment recipients																				
Incentive Payments (Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment recipients)	20 August 2012 (commencement date)	Young people receiving either a Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment can receive additional incentive payments of \$10 per week by enrolling in and completing the required budgeting education programme, and \$10 per week on completion of six months continued participation and achievement in education, training or work-based training.																				
Childcare Costs (income exemption)	15 July 2013 (commencement date of new Social Security benefits)	A \$20 per week income exemption applies to sole parent clients (in receipt of Jobseeker Support or Sole Parent Support) when they have to pay childcare costs while they are working.																				

The table shows supplementary payments and thresholds that are not annually adjusted to inflation, including the date they were last adjusted and the maximum payments/thresholds.

Guaranteed Childcare Payments (Young Parent Payment recipients)	20 August 2012 (commencement date)	The Guaranteed Childcare Payment is paid to 16-18 year old parents of children aged under five years who attend an approved Early Childhood Education service. The payment can be up to \$6 an hour for up to 50 hours a week, for up to 52 weeks a year.
Student Allowance (parental income reductions in specific circumstances)	1 January 2006	In most cases, parental income determines the amount of Student Allowance a student under the age of 24 years will receive. In determining joint parental income, earnings are reduced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,000 a year before tax if the parents are already financially supporting other students aged 16-23 years (increased from \$2,200 – the rate set in January 1990) • \$3,400 a year before tax if they live in separate houses (introduced as part of changes to Student Allowance)
Housing Support Products (payment rates)	1 July 2014	The Housing Support Assistance Package provides financial products to address barriers to accessing or retaining housing by meeting needs not covered by other assistance.
		Bond Grants are a non-recoverable payment to assist clients moving from Social Housing into alternative housing. The maximum rate is the amount of bond payable by the person, or the equivalent of four weeks rent, or \$2,000 – whichever is the lesser amount)
		Moving Assistance is a recoverable amount on actual costs of up to \$1,500 per household. Additional payments may be made if different household members are moving to separate properties.
		Letting Fees Assistance is a non-recoverable payment of which the maximum amount payable is one week's rent plus GST. The payment was changed from recoverable to non-recoverable when package was amended in June 2015.
		Transition to Alternative Housing Grants are a one-off non-recoverable grant of \$3,000 paid to motivate low housing need Social Housing tenants to move into alternative housing voluntarily.
		Tenancy Costs Cover provides support to clients experiencing barriers to accessing alternative housing to address the perceived risks that landlords have in letting to disadvantaged groups. The maximum amount payable is equal to four weeks rent based on the rent payable at the start of the tenancy.
	29 June 2015	The Housing Assistance Support Package was amended to include Rent in Advance which is a non-recoverable payment of which the maximum value is the amount of rent in advance payable by the person, or the equivalent of four weeks rent, or \$1,000 – whichever is the lesser amount.

Notes:

- Payments under the Housing Support Assistance Package including Letting Fees Assistance and Tenancy Costs Cover do not set a maximum amount, but calculate payments based on weekly rental costs set at the start of the tenancy.