



27 SEP 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 3 August 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information about the Mainstream Programme. On 6 August 2018, your request was clarified as below.

- *For each year, commencing in 2010, what percentage of your clients are currently participating in the mainstream program. [Percentage of all working age clients, and of clients receiving Supported Living Payments].*
- *For each year, commencing in 2010, of the participants in the program what is the percentage of clients that actually secure paid work? [Clients who secure paid employment once they have completed the Mainstream Programme].*

There are two types of Mainstream Programmes, the Mainstream Employment Programme, and the Mainstream Intern Programme. Further information about the two programmes is available from the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/disability-services/mainstream/index.html. The data below includes participants in both programmes.

The Mainstream Employment Programme provides a package of wage and training subsidies and other support to help people with significant disabilities gain sustainable employment.

The expected outcome of the programme is that each participant will gain or retain sustainable employment either with the employer or with an alternative employer during or at the end of the placement.

In 2011, changes to the Mainstream Employment Programme refocused it towards young disabled people (including school leavers and graduates), and expanded eligible employers to include the private sector and wider state sector. The wage subsidy was also increased in the second year of a placement from 50 to 80 per cent.

The Mainstream Internship Programme began in the 2015/16 financial year. The programme provides a 100 per cent wage subsidy and other support to enable employers to employ disabled students in short-term internships that align with their chosen field of study. Internships are for a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 16 weeks and are available to students in their second to last or final year of tertiary study.

Enclosed is a table that shows the number of clients who started and completed the Mainstream Programme, and whether the client secured paid employment or returned to study following completion of the programme, broken down by the year the client started the programme.

The Ministry reports on people who enter the Mainstream Programme during a given period. For example, 56 people commenced the programme between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. However, Main Benefit numbers are reported at a point in time, generally quarterly as people come on and off benefits during a period. Calculating a percentage of the main benefit populations accessing Mainstream would not be meaningful. This is because the number of clients accessing Mainstream every year is relatively small since the programme targets a specific population. Applications for Mainstream are assessed using a set of priority criteria, young people who have completed tertiary qualifications are most likely to have placements funded. In addition, the number of people who can access Mainstream is limited by the funding available for the service.

For your background information the number of clients in receipt of a main benefit, including Supported Living Payment, is available from the Ministry's quarterly Benefit Fact Sheets, accessible here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.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 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 regarding the Mainstream Programme, 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



Marama Edwards
Group General Manager, Community Partnerships and Programmes

The number of clients who started and completed the Mainstream Programme, and whether the client secured paid employment or returned to study following completion of the programme, broken down by the year the client started the programme.

Financial year the client started the programme	Number of clients who started the programme	Number of clients who completed the programme, by the year they started the programme	Number of clients who secured paid employment following completion of the programme	Percentage who secured paid employment following completion of the programme	Number of interns who returned to study following completion of the Intern Programme	Percentage who secured paid employment or returned to study
2010/11	1	1	1	100.0%	Not applicable	100.0%
2011/12	109	97	63	64.9%	Not applicable	64.9%
2012/13	99	80	49	61.3%	Not applicable	61.3%
2013/14	52	42	25	59.5%	Not applicable	59.5%
2014/15	63	46	29	63.0%	Not applicable	63.0%
2015/16	87	56	31	55.4%	10	73.2%
2016/17	100	20 (to date)	3	15.0%	16	95.0%
2017/18	137	20 (to date)	1	5.0%	17	90.0%
2018/19 (to date)	30	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Notes:

- Mainstream Employment Programme placements are for two years, and depending on when they start can run over three fiscal years. In this table, participants are only counted in the year they started the programme.
- Mainstream Internship Programme participants are included in this data, however the Internship Programme only began in the 2015/16 financial year.
- Employment data is recorded immediately after the completion of the programme.
- 'Secured paid employment' includes continued employment and new employment.
- Many of the clients who started the programme in the 2016/17 year onwards are still active in the programme.
- Clients whose contracts were cancelled, finished the programme early, are still currently active in the programme, or withdrew from the programme are not included in the count of clients who completed the programme.