



26 FEB 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 28 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

Each point broken down by age group (if possible) for the 2018-2019 financial year:

- 1. The total number and total value of Non-Recoverable Special Needs Grants for dental care granted to clients by the Ministry of Social Development WINZ Queen Street Auckland office;*
- 2. The total number of clients receiving Non-Recoverable Special Needs Grants for dental care given by the Ministry of Social Development WINZ Queen Street Auckland office (if different from the total number of grants)*
- 3. The total number and total value of Recoverable Special Needs Grants issued to the Ministry of Social Development for Special Needs Grants for dental care issued by the WINZ Queen Street Auckland office*
- 4. The total number of clients receiving Recoverable Special Needs Grants for dental care given by the Ministry of Social Development WINZ Queen Street Auckland office (if different from the total number of grants)*

The Ministry provides recoverable and non-recoverable Special Needs Grants (SNGs) to people to meet an immediate need for essential items such as food, health costs (including medical and dental costs), power and other costs. A person does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for an SNG but they must meet an income and asset test.

The Ministry recognises that individuals who are in receipt of a benefit may not be able to budget for unexpected dental costs, and support is available for those who meet the criteria to help with the cost of dental work.

The maximum amount payable to a person applying for a non-recoverable Special Needs Grant towards the cost of dental treatment is \$300 within any 52-week period. Where exceptional circumstances apply, this amount may be exceeded, or more than one payment may be made. In situations where there are no exceptional

circumstances, or where individuals do not meet the qualifying criteria for a Special Needs Grant, they may qualify for an Advance Payment of Benefit to meet any or all remaining costs.

All dental treatments funded through the Ministry must be provided by a health agency or registered dental practitioner. Examples of a qualifying dental situation include, but are not limited to, root treatment, tooth extraction, tooth restoration and treatment of acute infection.

Please find the information requested in questions 1 and 3 in the table below. In relation to questions 2 and 4, this is not standard reporting for the Ministry but can be provided with more time if you require it. If you do require this information, a response will be provided to you on or before 18 March 2020. A Ministerial and Executive Services Advisor will be in touch with you regarding this aspect of your request.

Table: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants for Emergency Dental granted in the Queen Street Work and Income service centre during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019

Quarter Ending	Age	Non-Recoverable		Recoverable		Total	
		Total Grants	Amount Granted	Total Grants	Amount Granted	Total Grants	Amount Granted
30-Sep-17	18-19	S	\$845.00	S	\$1,698.00	6	\$2,543.00
	20-24	11	\$3,175.00	7	\$4,133.00	18	\$7,308.00
	25-29	S	\$420.00	S	\$1,915.00	S	\$2,335.00
	30-34	S	\$2,015.00	S	\$3,185.00	11	\$5,200.00
	35-39	13	\$3,600.00	11	\$5,517.00	24	\$9,117.00
	40-44	S	\$1,515.00	S	\$917.25	10	\$2,432.25
	45-49	14	\$3,490.00	11	\$6,638.70	25	\$10,128.70
	50-54	9	\$2,300.00	7	\$2,127.00	16	\$4,427.00
	55-59	14	\$4,080.00	11	\$9,903.76	25	\$13,983.76
	60-64	10	\$2,840.00	8	\$5,444.00	18	\$8,284.00
65+	S	\$1,845.00	S	\$1,280.00	12	\$3,125.00	
31-Dec-17	18-19	S	\$1,200.00	S	\$2,860.00	6	\$4,060.00
	20-24	S	\$1,435.00	S	\$910.00	6	\$2,345.00
	25-29	S	\$2,850.00	S	\$6,829.00	15	\$9,679.00
	30-34	S	\$1,180.00	S	\$420.00	8	\$1,600.00
	35-39	S	\$1,438.00	S	\$835.00	8	\$2,273.00
	40-44	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$3,246.00	11	\$4,746.00
	45-49	S	\$1,400.00	S	\$1,664.00	8	\$3,064.00
	50-54	S	\$2,041.00	S	\$269.00	11	\$2,310.00
	55-59	9	\$2,435.00	8	\$4,287.00	17	\$6,722.00
	60-64	S	\$1,800.00	S	\$2,018.00	11	\$3,818.00
65+	S	\$1,740.00	S	\$1,921.00	11	\$3,661.00	
31-Mar-18	20-24	S	\$2,100.00	S	\$1,935.00	11	\$4,035.00
	25-29	7	\$1,860.00	6	\$6,431.00	13	\$8,291.00
	30-34	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$4,777.00	11	\$6,277.00
	35-39	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$5,255.00	11	\$6,755.00
	40-44	10	\$2,950.00	9	\$3,685.00	19	\$6,635.00
	45-49	6	\$1,610.00	7	\$4,803.69	13	\$6,413.69

Table: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants for Emergency Dental granted in the Queen Street Work and Income service centre during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019

	50-54	8	\$2,220.00	7	\$5,160.00	15	\$7,380.00
	55-59	S	\$1,480.00	S	\$1,875.00	12	\$3,355.00
	60-64	8	\$2,100.00	6	\$1,545.00	14	\$3,645.00
	65+	0	\$0.00	S	\$240.00	S	\$240.00
30-Jun-18	18-19	S	\$600.00	S	\$50.00	S	\$650.00
	20-24	S	\$2,035.00	S	\$3,265.00	13	\$5,300.00
	25-29	S	\$1,200.00	S	\$2,235.00	8	\$3,435.00
	30-34	S	\$1,705.00	S	\$530.00	11	\$2,235.00
	35-39	S	\$1,460.00	S	\$3,772.49	8	\$5,232.49
	40-44	6	\$1,706.90	8	\$7,690.00	14	\$9,396.90
	45-49	S	\$1,530.00	S	\$2,790.00	9	\$4,320.00
	50-54	6	\$1,725.00	6	\$3,653.00	12	\$5,378.00
	55-59	S	\$900.00	S	\$2,986.00	7	\$3,886.00
	60-64	S	\$900.00	S	\$370.00	S	\$1,270.00
	65+	S	\$900.00	S	\$150.00	6	\$1,050.00
30-Sep-18	18-19	S	\$300.00	0	\$0.00	S	\$300.00
	20-24	8	\$2,344.00	6	\$6,700.00	14	\$9,044.00
	25-29	S	\$2,045.00	S	\$3,711.00	12	\$5,756.00
	30-34	12	\$3,600.00	10	\$9,220.00	22	\$12,820.00
	35-39	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$4,887.50	9	\$6,387.50
	40-44	7	\$2,059.00	8	\$6,037.00	15	\$8,096.00
	45-49	8	\$1,805.00	10	\$3,410.00	18	\$5,215.00
	50-54	6	\$1,785.00	8	\$6,622.29	14	\$8,407.29
	55-59	S	\$900.00	S	\$5,550.00	8	\$6,450.00
	60-64	9	\$2,400.00	8	\$7,625.00	17	\$10,025.00
	65+	S	\$1,950.00	S	\$2,092.04	12	\$4,042.04
31-Dec-18	18-19	S	\$300.00	S	\$1,350.00	S	\$1,650.00
	20-24	8	\$2,210.00	6	\$3,810.00	14	\$6,020.00
	25-29	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$8,124.00	10	\$9,624.00
	30-34	S	\$2,120.00	S	\$5,800.00	13	\$7,920.00
	35-39	10	\$2,630.00	8	\$7,435.00	18	\$10,065.00
	40-44	11	\$3,080.00	10	\$5,405.00	21	\$8,485.00
	45-49	8	\$2,350.00	6	\$2,675.00	14	\$5,025.00
	50-54	11	\$3,300.00	8	\$10,366.89	19	\$13,666.89
	55-59	8	\$2,400.00	7	\$6,350.00	15	\$8,750.00
	60-64	S	\$650.00	S	\$2,080.00	7	\$2,730.00
	65+	S	\$600.00	S	\$240.00	S	\$840.00
31-Mar-19	18-19	S	\$300.00	0	\$0.00	S	\$300.00
	20-24	6	\$1,750.00	6	\$5,525.00	12	\$7,275.00
	25-29	S	\$1,500.00	S	\$4,255.00	10	\$5,755.00
	30-34	11	\$3,000.00	9	\$9,160.00	20	\$12,160.00
	35-39	S	\$1,780.00	S	\$6,215.00	11	\$7,995.00
	40-44	8	\$2,200.00	7	\$5,470.00	15	\$7,670.00
	45-49	12	\$3,580.00	10	\$5,710.00	22	\$9,290.00
	50-54	S	\$1,420.00	S	\$2,835.00	11	\$4,255.00

Table: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants for Emergency Dental granted in the Queen Street Work and Income service centre during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019

	55-59	11	\$3,165.00	10	\$5,968.00	21	\$9,133.00
	60-64	S	\$777.00	S	\$1,200.00	S	\$1,977.00
	65+	S	\$300.00	S	\$700.00	S	\$1,000.00
30-Jun-19	18-19	S	\$300.00	0	\$0.00	S	\$300.00
	20-24	S	\$1,310.00	S	\$1,871.00	9	\$3,181.00
	25-29	S	\$2,700.00	S	\$4,704.00	14	\$7,404.00
	30-34	8	\$2,150.00	6	\$5,149.85	14	\$7,299.85
	35-39	S	\$1,650.00	S	\$420.00	7	\$2,070.00
	40-44	S	\$1,320.00	S	\$4,631.00	10	\$5,951.00
	45-49	10	\$2,720.00	11	\$5,779.00	21	\$8,499.00
	50-54	9	\$2,320.00	7	\$4,044.00	16	\$6,364.00
	55-59	11	\$3,045.00	13	\$7,787.00	24	\$10,832.00
	60-64	7	\$2,050.00	6	\$3,570.00	13	\$5,620.00
	65+	S	\$750.00	S	\$965.00	6	\$1,715.00

Notes:

- The table includes clients of all ages and benefit types.
- The site is the Work and Income service centre where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- The amount granted may not reflect the actual amount spent.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

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. 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 regarding Special needs grants for Emergency Dental with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Special Needs Grants for dental care, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', with a large, stylized 'B' at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**