



04 NOV 2020

On 8 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A breakdown of the number and value of Special Needs Grants (SNGs) issued by the Wairarapa Community Link for the quarter ending 30 September 2020. Can this please be provided per SNG category?*

The Ministry provides hardship assistance to help people pay for essential items or services they need urgently. Hardship assistance includes SNGs which provide non-taxable, one-off recoverable or non-recoverable financial assistance to people to meet immediate needs, such as a food grant.

A person does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for an SNG, but they must meet an income and asset test. More information about SNGs for food is available on Work and Income's website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/food.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/food.html).

Please find the following table which shows a breakdown of SNGs issued by the Wairarapa Community Link, separated into the number of grants approved and the dollar amounts of those approved grants.

**Table one: Number of Special Needs Grants and amounts approved at the Wairarapa Community Link Service Centre during the September 2020 financial quarter, by reason for payment**

<b>Reason for payment</b>	<b>Number of grants approved</b>	<b>Amount approved</b>
Food	367	\$42,356.86
Dental Treatment	52	\$14,938.00
Housing Support Products (HSP) (Rent Arrears and Bond grant)	34	\$37,873.70
Drivers Licence (New and Renewal)	29	\$3,058.50
Other Emergency Grants	20	\$3,001.38
Health Travel Costs Client Only (Non-Recoverable and Recoverable)	19	\$1,640.00
Transfer to NZ Superannuation	8	\$3,541.45
Emergency Housing	8	\$6,396.00
Emergency Medical Treatment (Fees and Prescription Charges)	12	\$1,008.99
Other	13	\$4,458.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>\$118,273.48</b>

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**Notes:**

- The September quarter includes data from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.
- This data is a count of grants approved and not a count of clients. A client may have multiple grants for different reasons or have multiple grants during the period.
- The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Service Centre is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- The data does not include hardship assistance granted through centralised locations like Contact Centres, or applications made online.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories have been aggregated.
- Reasons for SNGs in the 'Other' category include:
  - Re-establishment Sole Parent (Other)
  - Re-establishment Sole Parent (Accommodation)
  - Steps 2 Freedom
  - Bedding
  - Assistance during an initial stand down and/or application process
  - Ambulance Fees (Non-Subscription)
  - New Employment Transition Grant Payment

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. 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding SNGs issued by the Wairarapa Community Link, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Saunders  
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