



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATŌ ORA

29 APR 2021

Tēnā koe

On 29 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

The total dollar amount of emergency benefit support provided to temporary visa holders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders assists people that are in hardship and cannot return home or otherwise support themselves in New Zealand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an associated income and asset test and the Ministry must also consider other means that may be available to people when assessing their eligibility. For example, whether people are able to return to their home countries if they can no longer support themselves in New Zealand and whether they have sought consular assistance from their home government. It is short-term assistance and was initially available from 1 December 2020 to February 2021. The benefit has now been extended until 31 August 2021. Those receiving the Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders prior to 17 February 2021, and require ongoing payments, need to visit a Work and Income service centre for a face to face appointment.

You can find more information about the eligibility criteria for this Emergency Benefit at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/temporary-visa-holders.html#null.

In response to your request, the Emergency Benefit net total paid to temporary visa holders from 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021 is \$833,473.65.

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. 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.

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If you wish to discuss this response regarding Emergency Benefits for temporary visa holders 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.

Ngā mihi nui



Kay Read
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