



4 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 8 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I'm keen to find out the source of the statistics you provide at the link below, that there are "around 15,000 caregivers [who] play a vital role in providing day-to-day care for around 24,000 children in New Zealand whose parents are unable to care for them" www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/budget/2021/factsheets/caregiver-support.html.*

The statistics referenced in your request relates to the work undertaken by caregivers for Budget 2021. The work falls across two areas:

- 1) Foster Care Allowance (FCA). This is a programme administered by Oranga Tamariki, which grants financial support for items such as board, personal items, clothing, and pocket money. More information on FCA can be found on Oranga Tamariki's website here: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caregiving/financial-help/caregiver-allowance/
- 2) Orphans and Unsupported Child's Benefit (OB-UCB). This is a programme administered by the Ministry on behalf of Oranga Tamariki, which looks to provide income support to the caregivers of children whose parents cannot support them. More information on OB-UCB can be found on the Work and Income Guide to Social Development Policy website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/introduction.html.

The actual data is administrative by nature. The values recorded are based on data gathered from our clients across New Zealand. This information is recorded both in client files, as well as centrally in the Ministry. At any given time, there are approximately 12,000-13,000 caregivers of OB-UCB in New Zealand, and approximately 19,000-20,000 children on OB-UCB in New Zealand. The remaining 2,000-3,000 caregivers and 4,000-5,000 children in the statement you referenced will have been covered by FCA.

The principles and purposes of the Act under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government

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- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- 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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the source of caregiver statistics, 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



Nathan Young
Manager
Forecasting and Costing