



Tēnā koe

On 4 August 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *What would a single woman with one child would receive on the DPB in 2003.*
- *How much [a single woman with one child]'s accommodation supplement could be if she were living in an average, three-bedroom rental house in Cromwell, Otago, [in 2003].*

On 9 August 2021, the Ministry sent you an email to inform you that the answer to the first part of your first request is publicly available. This email also sought to refine the second part of your request, as the Ministry required a rental payment figure in order to answer this part of the request.

On 11 August 2021, you refined the second part of your request to specify that the rental payment figure was \$180 per week.

For the sake of clarity, your request will be answered in parts:

- *What would a single woman with one child would receive on the DPB in 2003.*

As noted above, the Ministry provided you with an answer to the first part of your request on 9 August 2021. As such this response will provide no further context on this part of your request.

- *How much [a single woman with one child]'s accommodation supplement could be if she were living in an average, three-bedroom rental house in Cromwell, Otago, [in 2003].*

In 2003, Cromwell was defined as being in 'Area 3' for the purposes of Accommodation Supplement. In 2003, the maximum that a sole parent with one child living in 'Area 3' could receive under Accommodation Supplement was \$55 per week. Information on the thresholds for Accommodation Supplement in 2003 based on applicant category and area can be found on the Ministry's website for Guidance to Social Development Policy ("MAP") here:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/historical-rates/extra-help-historical-information/accommodation-supplement-historical-tables/at-1-april-2003-domestic-purposes-benefit-01.html.

Based on the rental payments of \$180 per week, the total amount of Accommodation Supplement payable would have exceeded the limit of \$55 per week. In these cases, the Accommodation Supplement payable would have been rounded down to the limit of \$55 per week.

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
- 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 Accommodation Supplement payments in 2003, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
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