



09 JUL 2021

Dear

On 11 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

For each of the four questions below can the answers be provided by region by ethnicity (New Zealand European, Maori, Pacific and Other).

- 1. How many working aged beneficiaries who were in receipt of Temporary Additional Support also received the CDA for one child?*
- 2. How many working aged beneficiaries who were in receipt of Temporary Additional Support also received the CDA for two or more children?*
- 3. How many working aged beneficiaries were excluded from receiving Temporary Additional Support because they received the CDA for one child?*
- 4. How many working aged beneficiaries who were excluded from receiving Temporary Additional Support because they received the CDA for more than one child?"*

The Child Disability Allowance (CDA) is a non-taxable form of assistance available to the principal caregiver of a child who is diagnosed with a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability. The CDA is paid at a standard rate and is not income tested. It is usually paid to the principal carer in recognition of the extra care they provide to a child with a severe medical condition compared to that required for a child of a similar age who is not impaired. It is not related to any particular financial costs incurred in relation to the child's disability. People may also be eligible to receive a Disability Allowance (DA) to meet any additional costs the dependent child may have due to their disability.

Temporary Additional Support (TAS) is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks (at which point a re-application is required). It is paid as a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their income and other resources.

TAS produces a rate of payment based on an individual client's costs and income. Most forms of income support are included as income, including CDA and Disability Allowance (DA). It may also interest you to know that disability related costs are also included as costs in the TAS calculation.

In response to your questions, please find **Table One** and **Table Two** in the attached spreadsheet, providing you with the following information:

- **Table One:** The number of working age main benefit clients at end of December 2019 and 2020, broken down by Territorial Local Authority and whether they receive Temporary Additional Support and Child Disability Allowance or not
- **Table Two:** The number of working age main benefit clients at end of December 2019 and 2020, broken down by ethnicity and whether they receive Temporary Additional Support and Child Disability Allowance or not

The Ministry is unable to provide you with statistics on the number of clients that do not receive TAS because they receive CDA. Clients receiving CDA and not in receipt of TAS, may not necessarily have been declined or excluded from TAS because of their CDA payment. Per legislation, a grant or rate increase in CDA may prevent entitlement to TAS. However, the Ministry cannot identify from centrally held data, cases where TAS is cancelled or declined for this reason. This information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files of the clients who have been granted CDA. As such, the request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry has considered whether it would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. The Ministry has concluded that, in either case, its ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 and attachments 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 clients in receipt of TAS and CDA, 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**