



12 April 2022

Tēnā koe

On 17 March 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Aggregate numbers for Open Polytechnic students in 2019, 2020 and 2021 in relation to student loans and allowances [broken down by] borrowers and monetary amounts*

The Student Loan and Student Allowance Schemes are designed to assist tertiary students to overcome financial barriers to undertaking tertiary study. The Student Loan and Student Allowance have three components, which provide finance for compulsory fees, course-related costs and living costs. Further information about the schemes is available at: [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

Regarding your request for information about students of the Open Polytechnic (institution code 6022), please see the attached **Appendix**, which contains the following:

- **Table One:** Student Loans Fees paid for study at Open Polytechnic (6022) for calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021, broken down by the number of distinct clients and amount paid.
- **Table Two:** Student Allowances paid for study at Open Polytechnic (6022) for calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021, broken down by the number of distinct clients and the amount paid.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding student loans and allowances paid to students of Open Polytechnic in 2019, 2020 and 2021 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.

Nāku noa, nā

*Bridget Saunders*

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



## Appendix

**Table One: Student Loans Fees paid for study at Open Polytechnic (6022)**

	<b>Distinct Clients paid</b>	<b>Total SL Fees Payments (Gross)</b>
<b>2019</b>	4,512	\$8,256,671.87
<b>2020</b>	4,725	\$8,634,191.11
<b>2021</b>	3,972	\$7,423,481.67

**Table Two: Student Allowances paid for study at Open Polytechnic (6022)**

	<b>Distinct Clients paid</b>	<b>Total Student Allowance paid</b>
<b>2019</b>	576	\$5,507,162.73
<b>2020</b>	678	\$6,162,222.78
<b>2021</b>	747	\$6,933,171.90

## Notes

- SA is Student Allowance.
- SL is Student Loan.
- Student Loan Fees are paid to a specific provider.
- Other components of Student Loan assistance (Living Costs, Course Related Costs and administration fees) cannot be linked to a particular education provider.
- No adjustment has been made to account for Loan Fees repayments or refunds.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.