



29 June 2022

Tēnā koe

On 20 May 2022, you contacted the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I'd like to get a regional breakdown of community services card holders, this would include Wairarapa of course but would allow me to compare to other regions as well.*

On 20 June 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that more time was required to complete the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request.

The Community Services Card (CSC) is available to New Zealanders over the age of 16 on a low to middle income that meet the eligibility criteria. The card can be used to reduce the costs of a range of fees associated with healthcare and is administered on behalf of the Ministry of Health. For more information about the CSC, please see the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html.

Please see the **attached Excel spreadsheet** which contains one table, showing the number of Community Service Card holders broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA), as at 31 March 2022.

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 and any

attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry'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 Community Service Card holders, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**