



17 April 2023

Tēnā koe

On 16 March 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

As I am a paediatrician and include the consequences of family violence on children as well (eg consequences on health outcome and academic achievement) in my research project, I would be very much interested to get an insight in how many children there are in these families with a tag (including age of the children).

Would it be possible to get this information as well?

On 23 March 2023, the Ministry contacted you to discuss your request and have clarified the information that the Ministry is able to provide which would be more helpful to you.

We have clarified your request to:

Number of Children attached to clients who are their primary caregivers and have Family Violence Special Caution Tags in the Nelson Work and income region, as at end of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

When a client discloses family violence, Case Managers may note this in our Client Management System (CMS) so that victims do not have to repeat their story every time they speak to a Case Manager. If they choose not to have this noted, they are advised that they are able to add a note every time. Where a Family Violence Special Caution tag is added, Case Managers will ensure that clients have access to their full entitlements, support and information for their safety.

Please refer to **Table One** in the attached **Appendix** which shows the number of children included in a client's current benefit in the Nelson Work and Income region who have a Family Violence Special Cautions tag as at the end of calendar years 2019 to 2022, broken down by the age of child.

To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding where, values have been randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3. This is applied to all cell counts in the table. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Please note that as the Ministry advised you on 23 March 2023, the data provided to you includes clients that are currently on a benefit. The Ministry also advised you that the data cannot be relied upon as clients do not have an obligation to remove the Special Caution Tags. As such, the Special Caution Tags may not even represent the client's current situation.

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 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 family violence, 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 nu

PP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Bridget Saunders
Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery