



13 February 2023

Tēnā koe

On 9 January 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1/ As of December 31, 2022 please provide the ages of children dependent on benefits broken into one-year age bands*
- 2/ Please provide the same data by benefit type*
- 3/ Please provide the same data by ethnicity*
- 4/ Please provide equivalent data at December 31, 2018*

We have defined children as dependent children aged 18 years or younger. Where a dependent child is 18 years of age and is attending school or a tertiary establishment (including by correspondence), the child can continue to be regarded as a dependent child up until the end of the school year in which the child turns 18 years old.

More information about dependent 18 year olds can be found at these publicly available resources:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews-jobseeker-support/child-turns-18-years-old-01.html

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews-jobseeker-support/child-aged-18-years-and-continues-education-01.html

In regards to your request, each of your questions will be responded to in turn:

- 1/ As of December 31, 2022 please provide the ages of children dependent on benefits broken into one-year age bands*
- 2/ Please provide the same data by benefit type*

Please see the **Appendix, Table Two**.

3/ Please provide the same data by ethnicity

Please note that the Ministry does not record the ethnicity of people between 0-17 years of age. As such, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental Venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, we have provided you with a breakdown of the ethnicities of adult clients currently receiving a working age benefit that have children. Please see the **Appendix, Table Four**.

4/ Please provide equivalent data at December 31, 2018

Please see the **Appendix, Table One** and **Table Three**.

Finally, please note the following caveats regarding all information provided in the **Appendix**:

- Where referring to adults, these tables include working age people only (18 to 64 years).
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- 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.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
- 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.

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 about dependent children included in benefits, 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**



Appendix

Table One: Number of children included in current working age Main Benefits as at the end of December 2018 by benefit group and the age of each child

Benefit Group	Child Age (years)																		Total	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18
SLP related	360	516	480	555	690	747	870	912	1,008	1,068	1,164	1,233	1,215	1,242	1,299	1,440	1,263	1,227	804	18,099
EMA	57	69	78	78	87	75	87	84	87	84	90	75	66	63	42	45	27	21	6	1,218
SPS	6,495	8,250	8,658	8,649	8,289	8,223	8,538	8,229	8,037	7,656	7,278	6,861	6,246	5,610	3,114	2,724	1,854	1,440	900	117,048
JSSH	84	138	198	261	303	288	333	267	297	264	234	216	204	168	168	135	147	141	51	3,915
EB	54	48	51	45	48	48	45	42	42	33	54	48	45	42	36	36	39	18	15	789
JS related	2,280	2,469	2,121	1,803	1,863	1,785	1,644	1,500	1,497	1,440	1,416	1,374	1,338	1,341	3,405	3,279	3,048	2,766	1,740	38,112
Total	9,330	11,493	11,586	11,394	11,283	11,160	11,517	11,034	10,974	10,542	10,239	9,813	9,117	8,469	8,061	7,662	6,378	5,610	3,522	179,181

Notes:

SLP related is Supported Living Payment.

EMA is Emergency Maintenance Allowance.

SPS is Sole Parent Support.

JSSH is Jobseeker Support Student Hardship.

EB is Emergency Benefit.

JS related is Jobseeker Support.

Table Two: Number of children included in current working age Main Benefits as at the end of December 2022 by benefit group and the age of each child

Benefit Group	Child Age (years)																			Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
SLP related	375	465	552	582	717	747	849	891	999	1 098	1 200	1 236	1 383	1 356	1 539	1 632	1 491	1 386	0	18,498
EMA	39	45	63	60	66	63	63	66	66	51	69	57	72	66	60	45	39	30	0	1,014
SPS	7,767	10,731	10,662	10,584	10,062	10,011	9,891	9,408	9,189	8,973	9,144	8,517	8,433	8,004	4,995	4,245	3,330	2,424	0	146,361
JSSH	39	63	90	87	102	123	111	105	96	99	78	87	78	78	87	75	63	63	0	1,533
EB	45	54	54	48	54	48	54	54	51	54	54	48	60	48	63	42	51	36	0	927
JS related	1,851	1,986	1,755	1,791	1,674	1,713	1,596	1,632	1,545	1,599	1,662	1,701	1,665	1,725	4,005	4,056	3,915	3,441	3	39,321
Total	10,113	13,344	13,179	13,149	12,675	12,702	12,564	12,162	11,946	11,871	12,207	11,646	11,694	11,277	10,752	10,095	8,892	7,380	3	207,648

Notes:

SLP related is Supported Living Payment.

EMA is Emergency Maintenance Allowance.

SPS is Sole Parent Support.

JSSH is Jobseeker Support Student Hardship.

EB is Emergency Benefit.

JS related is Jobseeker Support.

Table Three: Number of adult clients with children receiving current working age Main Benefits as at the end of December 2018 by Ethnic Total Response of the adult caregiver

Ethnicity of the adult caregiver	Number
European	41,691
Māori	43,857
Pacific Peoples	13,740
Asian	4,665
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,004
Other ethnicity	1,728
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	94,188
Not specified	2,457
Total recipients	96,645

Notes:

Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.

Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.

'Not specified' is where ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other' is where ethnicities fall outside the reported ethnicities.

Table Four: Number of adult clients with children receiving current working age Main Benefits as at the end of December 2022 by Ethnic Total Response of the adult caregiver

Ethnicity of the adult caregiver	Number
European	45,750
Māori	49,449
Pacific Peoples	16,305
Asian	5,079
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,121
Other ethnicity	2,271
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	104,619
Not specified	4,698
Total recipients	109,317

Notes:

Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.

Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.

'Not specified' is where ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other' is where ethnicities fall outside the reported ethnicities.