



2 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 1 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of people receiving Jobseekers Benefit – Work Ready as at Friday 10 February 2023 in the East Coast Region. You request that this information be broken down into the following:*
- *Numbers by local government district or region: Hawkes Bay or Tairāwhiti*
- *Numbers by 10-year age bracket*
- *Numbers by length of time receiving this benefit in 3-month increments, going back for the past 2 years*
- *The above requested breakdowns only apply to those still receiving the Jobseekers Benefit (Work Ready only) as at 10/2/2023.*

The Ministry, through Work and Income, provides main benefits including Jobseeker Support, as well as ongoing supplementary assistance, recoverable and non-recoverable one-off financial assistance. This assistance is available to help people meet immediate needs for essential items such as food, health costs, power and other costs. These payments are available to any person as long as they meet the income and asset test, and they are unable to meet the cost for an essential need from any other source. Work and Income ensures that people receive their correct entitlement to any financial assistance as part of the application and assessment process.

You can find more information at Work and Income's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/

Please find attached, as an **APPENDIX**, two tables showing the number of working age clients receiving Jobseeker Support (Work Ready) in the East Coast by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) at the end of February 2023, and

the number of working age clients receiving Jobseeker Support (Work Ready) in the East Coast by duration on benefit, at the end of February 2023.

For the tables, we have included notes of explanation to assist you in reading the data.

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 attachment 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 Jobseeker Support data for the East Coast, 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



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