



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

7 November 2023

Tēnā koe

On 10 October 2023, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) received your request, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for the following information:

- *I am writing to ask what is the number of enrolled domestic tertiary students vs the number of student allowance recipients over the past 23 years since 2000, including numbers and relevant percentages - preferably in a table.*

On 19 October 2023 the Ministry transferred part of your request to the Ministry of Education, namely the part that relates to the number of enrolled domestic tertiary students, as this information is more closely connected with the function of their agency. You will hear from the Ministry of Education separately.

The student support system enables all New Zealanders to participate in tertiary education and training. The main elements of student support are the Student Loan Scheme and the Student Allowance Scheme.

The Student Allowance is a weekly payment for eligible students to help with living expenses during their study. The payment is based on the financial and personal circumstances of the student and their family and does not need to be paid back. More information about Student Allowance is available here: www.studylink.govt.nz/products/a-z-products/student-allowance/index.html.

The Ministry publishes a large amount of data regarding StudyLink assistance which might be of interest to you. This information is available at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/studylink/index.html.

The Ministry also publishes up to date information regarding the number of Student Allowance recipients, dating back to 1999. You can find this information at the following link:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.msd.govt.nz%2Fdocuments%2Fabout-msd-and-our-work%2Fpublications-resources%2Fstatistics%2Fstudylink%2F2023%2Fmar-23-student-loan-and-student-allowance%2Fstudent-allowance-ytd-january-to-march-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

The Ministry is refusing your request for the relevant percentages of the number of enrolled domestic tertiary students as compared to the number of student allowance recipients under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist. This information sits across two agencies, and the Ministry would need to create this information to be able to answer your request.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

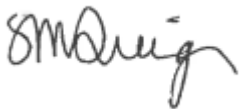
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 number of student allowance recipients, 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



Sarah Quigan
Manager
Official Information