



29 February 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 7 February 2024, requesting information about Dental Special Needs Grants in the Gisborne District.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- 1. Total number of people in the Gisborne District who are eligible to receive a special Needs Grants for dental treatment for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.*
- 2. Could you also provide an ethnicity breakdown for all eligible people in the Gisborne District, for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. The Ministry does not collect data on those eligible to receive a Special Needs Grant for dental treatment, instead the Ministry records data upon receipt of the application for dental assistance. You can find more information on the eligibility requirements for dental assistance here:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/essential-dental-treatment.html>

- 3. Could you also provide an ethnicity breakdown for all applicants, in the Gisborne District, including approved and declined, for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.*


Please refer to the attached spreadsheet which contains the number of Special Need Grants and Advance Payment of benefit applications for Emergency Dental Treatment Assistance in Gisborne District from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2023 broken down by ethnicity.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for information about Dental Special Needs Grants in the Gisborne District, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

p.p. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**