



13 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2024, requesting information about the Disability Allowance category of 'private paying patients'.

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

- 1. What processing code(s) are used for claims relating to the cost category "Private paying patients".*
- 2. If there are multiple codes for this cost category what "real world descriptor" is associated with each code (I wish to understand what types of items are claimed for in this category). A deduplicated list of such descriptions associated with this "private paying patients" category.*

The term 'private paying patients' refers to individuals who do not meet the criteria for Residential Care Subsidy (RCS), and instead meet the criteria of Disability Allowance (DA) to help with certain costs associated with residential care. You can see the criteria for RCS and DA here:

- Qualifications (RCS) - workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/residential-care-subsidy/qualifications.html
- Qualifications (DA) - workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/qualifications.html.

There are no specific processing codes for 'private paying patients'. As such, these aspects of your request are refused under section 18(e) as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

- 3. How many claims are made against this category per year (numerical output, last 3 years)*
- 4. How many dollars were reimbursed per year via this category "private paying clients", per code, in the above 3 financial years (output NZD)*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

5. *What year was the "private paying patients" category introduced as a cost definition in the disability allowance.*

This content was introduced to Manuals and processes (Map) on 24 July 2006. Map is the website used by Ministry staff when interpreting and applying legislation and policy. I have provided you with links to the relevant pages that were updated on 24 July 2006:

- Costs provided by residential care services (RCS) – workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/costs-provided-by-residential-care-services-01.html
- Costs not included (DA) – workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/costs-not-included-01.html
- Additional Assistance (RCS) – workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/residential-care-subsidy/additional-assistance.html
- Disability Allowance – workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/residential-support-subsidy/disability-allowance-01.html

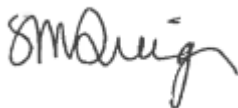
I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services