



27 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 6 May 2024, requesting information about the number of dependent children included in main benefits.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please see the attached **Appendix** which contains one table of data showing the number of children included in working age main benefits as at 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2024, broken down by the Caregiver's Total Response Ethnicity, Region and year.

Please note that the 'Other Pacific Peoples' category includes Tuvaluan and I-Kiribati. Due to limitations in reporting, the Ministry is unable to provide the level of detail that you have requested. Additionally, the Ministry does not record or report on the ethnicity of children. We have instead provided you with the ethnicity of the primary client receiving the main benefit.

I am unable to provide you with information about the ethnicity of children, or the number of clients who identify as Tuvaluan or I-Kiribati as it is held in notes on individual case files, if it is held at all. 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.

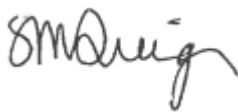
I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 for information about children included in main 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services