



21 November 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2024, requesting information about Disability Allowance.

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

#### ***How many persons without the disability have applied for a disability allowance under the 'Travel because of your disability' category?***

To be eligible for Disability Allowance, a person must meet the relevant eligibility criteria, which includes being assessed as having a disability as defined by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry). If someone applies for a Disability Allowance but does not meet the criteria, their application would be declined.

There are a number of reasons why an applicant's application may be declined, and I am unable to provide you with the number of people who have applied for a Disability Allowance who do not have a disability, as this information 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.

#### ***If any, how many of these applications have been granted and at what rate?***

There are no people who have received a Disability Allowance who do not have a disability, as defined by the Ministry.

Disability Allowance provides assistance to people who have ongoing, additional costs because of a disability. To be able to receive a Disability Allowance, a client

must have a disability which is likely to last at least 6 months and have ongoing, additional costs arising from that disability.

The Ministry may pay up to a maximum of \$78.60 a week for Disability Allowance. This payment is not taxed. How much of the \$78.60 a week a client can get depends on the extra costs the client has due to their disability.

For more information, please see the following:

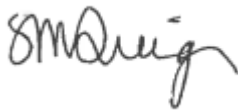
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/disability-allowance.html#:~:text=How%20much%20you%20can%20get,have%20because%20of%20your%20disability>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/introduction.html>

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request regarding Disability Allowance, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

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