



2 September 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2024, requesting information about the number of funeral grants approved by the Ministry over the last five years.

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

The Ministry provides Funeral Grants to help those who have no other means to meet the costs of a funeral. A Funeral Grant assists people with actual and reasonable funeral costs and is not designed to cover all funeral expenses. It is income and asset tested and eligibility takes into consideration whether the deceased person has a surviving partner or dependent child, or if the deceased is a child.

Expenses that can be met through a Funeral Grant include:

- professional services with regard to preparing the body for cremation or burial (for example, embalming)
- cost of a casket
- newspaper notice costs
- hearse fees
- compulsory fees for the purchase of a burial plot
- cremation fees.

Further information on the eligibility for a funeral grant can be found on the Work and Income website, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/funeral-grant.html

Please see the following table that shows the number of funeral grants approved over the last five years.

Number of Funeral Grants from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024 by financial year.

Financial years	Number of grants
2019/2020	4,995
2020/2021	4,722
2021/2022	4,710
2022/2023	5,244
2023/2024	4,926
Total	24,603

Notes

- The Ministry of Social Development's financial year commences on the 1st of July and ends at the 30th of June.
- The number of grants is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one grant in each time period.

Confidentiality

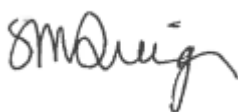
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services