



24 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your follow up email of 21 March 2025, requesting further information about DSS clients broken down by District Health Board (DHB).

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

I would like to apologise that the data provided to you on 21 March 2025 was not broken down to the level you sought in your original request. This was an error by the Ministry. Please find the data as requested in the attached **Appendix: Data on people who received Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) funding between 1 January and 31 December 2024.**

Please note the following regarding the data provided:

- People may have more than one EMS claim. In some instances, these claims were at different times across the period, and the person had entered a different age category. To simplify this data, the Ministry has included each person's maximum age at any of their claims within the period. For example, if a person was 64 for their first claim and 65 for subsequent claims, they will only appear in the "65+" age group. If all of their claims were from when they were 64 years old, they are counted in the "55-64" category, even if they turned 65 before the end of the period.
- A person's DHB is provided when an EMS claim is made. For the purpose of this response, that data is not used, and the person's DHB as most recently reported to Health NZ has been used in its place. This removes duplicated DHBs and tends to be an accurate reflection of peoples' actual locations. While some people made claims under multiple DHBs, there were very few people where at least one claim didn't match their DHB as reported by Health NZ.

In response to your query regarding why carer details are not recorded, all service coordination's are made to a disabled person. A disabled person may have one or more carers and they may change over time. All assistance is received by the disabled person.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services