MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

13 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 25 June 2025, requesting information data about clients with alcohol-related problems in Taranaki, and a list of emergency housing suppliers with alcohol licences.

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. *How many premises with an alcohol licence do you use for emergency housing for each district? If so, has this caused issues for families/individuals living there?*

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) does not record if suppliers have an Alcohol License. However, we can supply the names of the suppliers for the New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils. From these you may be able to determine if they have an Alcohol License. We do not currently have suppliers in the South Taranaki District.

- 299 On Devon West Motel
- Amber Court Motel
- BK's Egmont Motor Lodge
- Ducks and Drakes Boutique Motel and Backpackers
- PIHMS Holdings Limited
- Top 10 Holiday Park NP Ltd
- White Eagle Motel.

2. *How many of your clients have had to be placed in emergency housing for alcohol related harm? and/or family harm incidents?*

Please see this link on the Ministry's website that contains monthly housing reporting, for clients receiving Emergency Housing grants and on the Social Housing Register. You will see the data is searchable by Work and Income regions: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/monthly-housing-reporting.html.

The part of your request for specific numbers of clients is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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.

3. *The total numbers and percentage of people by district (New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki) receiving welfare assistance due to alcoholism.*

Please see **Appendix 1** attached which contains four tables of data, for comparison of clients receiving Ministry benefit assistance for core substance abuse, including alcoholism:

- **Table 1:** Number of working age Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability and Supported Living Payment health Condition and Disability including Supported Living Payment Overseas with incapacity reason 'Alcohol' as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024, in 'New Plymouth District', Stratford District and 'South Taranaki District' Territorial Local Authority (TLA).
- **Table 2:** Number of working age Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability and Supported Living Payment health Condition and Disability including Supported Living Payment Overseas with incapacity reason 'Alcohol' as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).
- **Table 3:** Number of working age Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability and Supported Living Payment health Condition and Disability including Supported Living Payment Overseas with an incapacity as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024, in New Plymouth District, Stratford District and South Taranaki District Territorial Local Authority (TLA).
- **Table 4:** Number of working age Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability and Supported Living Payment health Condition and Disability including Supported Living Payment Overseas with an incapacity as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and incapacity group.

4. *Total number of child disability allowances paid as a result of alcohol related pregnancy (Foetal Alcohol Syndrome).*

Please find attached **Appendix 2** with data that provides a snapshot of the total number of child disability allowances paid to Taranaki Territorial Local Authorities by year ending December 220 to December 2024.

- **Table 1:** Number of Child Disability Allowances as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).
- **Table 2:** Number of Child Disability Allowances as at end of December 2020, 2021, 2023, 2023 and 2024 in 'New Plymouth District', Stratford District and 'South Taranaki District', Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

Child Disability Allowance is a non-taxable allowance that is available to the principal caregiver of a dependent child who has a serious disability. When Child Disability Allowance application is granted, the disability type is recorded on each Ministry client's individual client record and other databases.

To find out if Child Disability Allowance is paid because of alcohol related pregnancy (Foetal Alcohol Syndrome), we would need to search the Ministry's individual client records to find this information. Accordingly, information about child disability allowances paid because of alcohol related pregnancy is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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. *Total number of children uplifted from home as a result of alcoholism, or where alcohol was a factor.*
6. *Total number of children being monitored due to living in a home affected by alcohol.*
7. *Any other information about the overall health indicators of the district's residents or the nature and severity of the alcohol-related problems in Taranaki that you see as relevant to the drafting of the Local Alcohol Policy*

On 10 July 2025, you were advised that Questions 5 and 6 had been transferred to Oranga Tamariki and Question 7 to Health New Zealand as information for those three questions is not held by us but is believed to be held by those agencies. You will receive a response from those agencies in due course, if you haven't already.

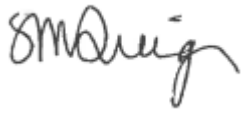
You were also advised that Health New Zealand suggested they would contact you direct to discuss issues around your Local Alcohol Policy.

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. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services