



3 December 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2025, requesting information about dental grants.

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.

- *What are the considerations for approving (or not) a SNG for Dental?*
- *What are the usual arrangements for a recoverable SNG-Dental?*

This information is available publicly on the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) Manuals and Procedures (MAP) website, at the following links:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/qualifications.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/essential-dental-treatment.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/essential-dental-treatment-costs-covered.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/qualifications.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/dental-treatment-01.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/recovery-of-payment-01.html
 - www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/recovery-of-payment-01.html
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- *What kind of relationship exists between MSD and Oral Health Sector? Nationally or locally*

At a national level, the Ministry's Principal Health Advisor has regularly scheduled meetings with the New Zealand Dental Association. Over the last 18 months,

webinars have been delivered for their membership, talking to the ways Work and Income can support dental patients. An information sheet to accompany the webinar is also provided. Further guidance can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability/index.html.

At a regional level, the relationship is managed by the Ministry's Regional Health and Disability team. The New Zealand Dental Association have their contact details and can reach out regarding individual clients as needed.

- *I have attached information about the SNG-Dental data request. I have also attached the SNG-Dental information provided recently to Atiawa Toa IMPB under an OIA. We are looking to build on this information for the central region IMPBs.*

Please see the attached **Appendix** containing the following tables:

- **Table One:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for the Wellington MSD region from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, broken down by age, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table Two:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for the Wellington MSD region from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, broken down by ethnicity, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table Three:** Amount granted for dental hardship for the MSD Wellington region from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, broken down by financial year.

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

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Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services