



4 December 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2025, requesting information about dental treatment grants provided to people in the Wairarapa (including Eketahuna) region.

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

- *A breakdown of Special Needs Grants (SNGs) and Advances for dental treatment (both essential and emergency) for people living in the following Territorial Local Authority areas: Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, and Tararua District Councils.*

Please see **Appendix One** attached, containing the following data tables:

- **Table 1:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for selected Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, by age group, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table 2:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for selected Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, by ethnicity, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table 3:** Amount granted for dental hardship for selected Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2025, by financial year.

Please note that when a client applies for dental treatment, they are automatically tested for both a Special Needs Grant (SNG) dental treatment and an Advance Payment of Benefit (ADV). These are counted as separate grants/declines.

- *Any monitoring or evaluation information available regarding the impact of the changes to eligibility criteria and income caps for dental treatment introduced from 1 December 2022, specifically:*
 - *Any changes in application volumes*

- *Demographic shifts in who is applying*

I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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