



31 January 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 January 2025, requesting unemployment information for the Christchurch East electorate.

Thank you for your refinement email of 16 January, clarifying that you are content with the data already available on Jobseeker Support recipients through the Christchurch City Territorial Local Authority (TLA), and that you would like to focus your request solely on the second part of your original request, namely:

- *Any identified barriers to employment for individuals in the Christchurch East electorate, as reported in MSD records, case manager feedback, or surveys. For example, barriers could include health issues, lack of skills, lack of transportation, childcare responsibilities, addiction, or other factors.*

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

There are a number of barriers faced by job seekers entering employment. In the Christchurch City Territorial Local Authority, clients may face barriers which are faced nation-wide, or specific to the region.

I have summarised the barriers and supports available to clients below.

Health conditions or disability issues:

Approximately 48% of the jobseekers registered in the Ministry's Christchurch East offices have a health condition or disability. In turn, fulltime work may not always be a possible goal for this cohort, and part time or casual work options are more realistic to balance health conditions with becoming independent.

The Ministry understands that employment, for those able to work, can make a considerable difference to the wellbeing of everyone, including disabled people or people living with health conditions. Employment can increase a sense of purpose and self-esteem; financial security; community engagement and access to health and wellbeing supports and overall independence.

Gaining work can be harder for some, and the Ministry provides a range of assistance to help people with specific needs into work. Case managers, employment coordinators and work brokers can assist clients in accessing training opportunities, employment, grants and financial assistance. The Ministry also has regional health and disability teams, who support frontline staff in ensuring that disabled whanau or people with health conditions get access to the right support.

The Ministry contracts community-based organisations to provide specialist employment support for disabled people and people with health conditions. These programmes are tailored to the individual's needs and goals.

More information about these supports can be found here:
www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/working/payments-to-help-you-at-work/job-and-training-support-funds.html.

Lack of work confidence, motivation, or skills

Ministry staff work closely with clients to support them through the process of applying for jobs, training and work experience, navigating work costs, interview support and health and disability job support. The Ministry also works with a number of partner organisations and training providers to help clients prepare for work.

Where the barrier to employment is a lack of training or skills, people who qualify may be able to access Course Participation Assistance (CPA) to purchase short vocational certificates or vocation upskilling such as Forklift licence, and security endorsements. For more information about CPA, please see the following link:
www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/course-participation-assistance.html

More information about courses and training options available can be found here:
www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/get-ready-to-work/training-study-and-qualifications/index.html.

Childcare responsibilities

Often, the complexities of shared care within families can be a barrier for gaining employment.

The Ministry has support available to make it easier for parents to work by assisting with childcare costs for pre-school care, childcare costs for before and after school care and accommodation costs through the Accommodation Supplement.

Any clients who are facing any barriers to employment should contact the Ministry to explore assistance which can be available for their unique situation. More information about the range of assistance to help people into work can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/index.html.

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

