



29 July 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2025, requesting information about funeral grants.

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

- *Please could I get the number of people who have applied for a funeral grant so far this year up to July (2025), then in 2024, in 2023, 2022 and in 2021?*
- *Could I please get the number of funeral grant applications that were successful so far this year up to July (2025), then in 2024, 2023, 2022 and in 2021?*

The attached **Appendix** provides you with the number of funeral grant applications processed (grants and declines) between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2025, broken down by calendar year and region.

- *How many funeral grant applications received by MSD had to pay the money back at a later date due to not meeting the criteria? Could you please give me the number of applications this happened to so far this year up to July (2025), then in 2024, 2023, 2022 and in 2021?*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe this information would be held by another agency.

A funeral grant is a non-taxable lump sum payment that helps towards a person's funeral expenses. It is non recoverable, and if the qualification criteria have been met, a payment of up to \$2,616.12 can be paid.

Further information regarding who can get a funeral grant can be found here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/funeral-grant/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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Anna Graham

**General Manager**

**Ministerial and Executive Services**