



11 November 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 26 October 2025, requesting information about the legislation that defines what 'at home' and 'away from home' in relation to Jobseeker Support applications.

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

The relevant legislation, the Social Security Act 2018, can be found online. I refer you in particular to Clause 1(a) and Clause 8 of part 1 – Jobseeker Support, which define living with a parent and living away from home: www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0032/latest/DLM6784850.html

It is important to note that the rates for Jobseeker Support in the table you provided are set by whether a person is at home *living with a parent*, rather than just 'at home' or 'away from home'.

This legislation also makes it clear that 'parent', for purposes of this section, includes parents, guardians, or a person who is acting as a parent.

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