



14 November 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2025, requesting a breakdown of dental treatment grants in the Wellington region from 2021 to 2025.

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

Please see the attached **Appendix**, detailing the following information:

- **Table one:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for the Wellington Ministry of Social Development region from 1 July 2021 to 20 June 2025, by age group, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table two:** Number of dental hardship grants and declines for the Wellington Ministry of Social Development region from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025, by ethnicity, application outcome and financial year.
- **Table three:** Amount granted for dental hardship for the Ministry of Social Development Wellington region from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025, by financial year.

We would like to 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), and these are counted as separate grants/declines.

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