

20 November 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2025, requesting a breakdown of the age of death of individuals with physical disabilities receiving DSS funding, including primary diagnosis and household type.

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

Please find the below **Appendix**, detailing the following information:

- **Table One:** Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.
- **Table Two:** Average age at death of disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in residential service providers, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.
- **Table Three:** Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in a family home, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.
- **Table Four:** Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in aged care providers, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.
- **Table Five:** Number of females with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged residential care facilities in different regions in the last five financial years
- **Table Six:** Number of males with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged residential care facilities in different regions in the last five financial years
- **Table Seven:** Age of people with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged care facilities in the last five financial years.

You will note that some data is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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

Appendix

Table One: Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.

Primary Diagnosis (ID or PD)					
Attribute	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Intellectual	51	57	54	54	54
Physical	57	60	57	60	60

Table Two: Average age at death of disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in residential service providers, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.

Residential service providers					
Attribute	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Intellectual	60	60	63	63	60
Physical	60	57	60	57	63

Table Three: Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in a family home, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.

Separated into family home					
Attribute	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Intellectual	36	36	39	39	39
Physical	57	57	57	57	57

Table Four: Average age at death of all disabled people in New Zealand who were receiving care funded by the Crown each year, over the past five financial years, living in aged care providers, broken down by Primary Diagnosis.

Aged care providers					
Attribute	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Intellectual	66	60	63	60	60
Physical	63	66	66	60	60

Number of individuals with physical disabilities (split by gender) who have passed away in aged residential care facilities in different regions in the last 5 years

Table Five: Number of females with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged residential care facilities in different regions in the last five financial years

<i>DHB</i>	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Auckland	S	9	S	6	S
Bay of Plenty	S	0	S	S	S
Canterbury	S	6	9	9	6
Capital and Coast	S	0	0	S	S
Counties Manukau	S	S	S	S	6
Hawke's Bay	S	S	0	0	0
Hutt Valley	S	S	S	S	S
Lakes	0	S	0	0	0
MidCentral	S	S	S	S	S
Nelson Marlborough	S	S	0	6	S
Northland	S	S	0	S	S
South Canterbury	0	0	S	S	0
Southern	S	S	S	S	S
Tairāwhiti	0	0	S	0	0
Taranaki	S	S	S	S	0
Waikato	0	S	S	S	S
Wairarapa	0	S	0	0	0
Waitemata	S	6	S	S	6
West Coast	S	0	0	S	0
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	S

Table Six: Number of males with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged residential care facilities in different regions in the last five financial years.

<i>DHB</i>	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Auckland	S	6	6	6	S
Bay of Plenty	S	S	S	S	0
Canterbury	6	S	15	6	S
Capital and Coast	S	0	S	0	0
Counties Manukau	S	S	S	S	S
Hawke's Bay	S	S	0	S	S
Hutt Valley	0	S	S	0	S
Lakes	0	S	S	S	0
MidCentral	S	S	S	0	S
Nelson Marlborough	S	S	0	0	S
Northland	S	S	S	S	S
South Canterbury	S	S	0	S	0
Southern	S	S	S	6	S
Tairāwhiti	0	0	S	0	0
Taranaki	0	0	S	S	0
Waikato	S	S	S	S	S
Waitemata	6	S	S	S	S
West Coast	0	0	0	S	0
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	S

Table Seven: Age of people with physical disabilities who have passed away in aged care facilities in the last five financial years.

<i>Their age at time of death</i>					
Age at death grouping	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Younger than 35	0	S	S	0	S
35-44	S	0	S	0	S
45-54	6	12	15	9	S
55-64	24	36	30	36	27
65 and over	33	30	36	51	33

Notes:

- "Family home" is interpreted as all services exclusive of YPD and Community Group Homes, as per other requests. The included people were not in receipt of either of these services on their date of death.
- The total number of deaths across the period was 2916.
- 500-650 people die while receiving a disability support service each year. This equates to around 1% of the Disability Support Services population.
- Given DSS eligibility criteria, and the likelihood that a significant number of people will not be receiving services post 65-years-old, the average age at death is skewed lower.
- Suppressed values are between 1 and 5 inclusive and are marked as "S".
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.