



30 September 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2025, requesting information about Accommodation Supplement assistance for full-time students.

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

- *How many Full-Time students in 2025 are receiving the Accommodation Supplement that is mentioned on the Study Link website as something that full time students may be eligible for?*

Your request has been interpreted as the number of students receiving Student Loan and Accommodation Supplement. Please find the data in the attached **Appendix**. Note that not all students captured in the data may be studying full-time.

- *How many students do you estimate would be eligible for this Accommodation Supplement under the current legislation?*

The Ministry currently does not forecast eligibility for Accommodation Supplement. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you had requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

- *Referring to the link on the Study Link website that mentions who is eligible for it, this makes no sense. It says you are not eligible if you are receiving the student allowance, if you are eligible for the student allowance but don't take it, or if you are ineligible because of parents income/personal income/partners income. Surely that means no one is eligible, so therefore it would be stated as something students may be eligible for.*

Please see the following link outlining situations where a student will qualify for Accommodation Supplement: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/students-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/students-01.html)

Where the link provides information on general scenarios where students may be able access the Accommodation Supplement, below are some more specific examples that we commonly see:

- Where a student is in post graduate study as post graduate students are not eligible for Student Allowance.
- Where a student cannot access Student Allowance as they did not meet performance requirements.
- Where a student has used their maximum number of Student Allowance weeks.
- *Is there any accommodation assistance that students are eligible for if they are ineligible for student allowance, considering they have the same rental costs as all other New Zealanders and are known to have to live in sub-standard housing?*

Students not eligible for Student Allowance may be able to access Student Loan Living Costs to help fund their living expenses, including accommodation costs. They may also be able to access other housing support products through the Ministry, such as Rent Arrears payments.

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**