



25 March 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your emails of 10 February 2026, requesting information about 18–30-year-olds receiving a disability-related benefit.

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.

I have also included some general information about Mainstream programmes at the end of this letter, for your further information.

- *The number of clients aged 18 to 30 receiving Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability or Supported Living Payment who have participated in government-funded internship or work-experience pathways in the last three financial years.*
- *Of those participants, the number or percentage who successfully transitioned into permanent employment (part-time or full-time) with the same employer.*
- *The number of individuals aged 18–30 receiving a disability-related benefit who are currently recorded as being in: Full-time employment (30 hours or more per week). Part-time employment (less than 30 hours per week).*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

- *The total number of individuals aged 18–30 currently receiving a disability-related benefit*

Please find the attached **Appendix** for **Table One** detailing the number of Ministry clients aged 18-30 receiving a disability related benefit.

- *The total annual cost (expenditure) for providing these benefits to the 18–30 age group for the most recent financial year*

I have interpreted your request as the cost of administering disability-related benefits to 18–30-year-olds. The Ministry does not currently measure how much it costs to administer these benefits to different age groups. In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collusion. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

General information about Mainstream Programmes

Mainstream programmes are MSD-funded work experience and internship programmes for people with disabilities or health conditions lasting longer than six months.

The Mainstream Internship programme provides employment preparation and placement, and a wage subsidy to enable people to gain paid work experience in their chosen field. This programme is administered by Propel, who works to place people in roles that suit their skills and capabilities. This programme is open to people who have a disability or health condition (including a mental health condition or neurodiversity) who are in their final two years of study or have completed full-time study in the last 12 months. The internship programme provides paid internships that last 4-12 weeks.

The Mainstream Employment programme provides a package of wage and training subsidies and additional supports to help people with disabilities or health conditions lasting longer than six months to obtain work, and to enable them to remain in sustainable employment. Disability Employment Service providers will work with employers to place people in roles that suit their skills and capabilities, to gain paid work experience for up to 52 weeks.

More information about Mainstream programmes can be found on our website:

- [Mainstream programmes - Work and Income](#)

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