



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

11 AUG 2017

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

On 17 July 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *In each financial year since 2008/09, how many Australian citizens are receiving benefits and/or entitlements by type of benefit and/or entitlements in New Zealand?*

New Zealand has a bilateral social security agreement with Australia, which enables portability of some financial assistance when moving to Australia, and allows people who move to New Zealand, from Australia, to receive assistance if required.

Information about this agreement, and additional information about Australian eligibility for benefits, can be found on the Work and Income website at:

- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/social-security-agreements/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/social-security-agreements/index.html)
- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/emergency-benefit/australian-clients-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/emergency-benefit/australian-clients-01.html)

Please find enclosed, a table showing the number of working age main benefit clients residing in New Zealand, whose country of birth is Australia as at 30 June 2009 to 2017 by year. In 2013 there were significant changes to the benefit system, with three new benefits replacing the previous main benefit types. The introduction of the new benefit categories resulted in clients moving between benefit types, which displays a not applicable (N/A) for the benefit type that was not available at the date.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding Australian citizens receiving benefits and/or entitlements in New Zealand with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive Service Delivery**

**Working age main benefit clients residing in New Zealand whose country of birth is Australia as at 30 June 2009 to 2017 by year.**

<b>As at 30 June</b>	<b>Domestic Purpose Benefit related</b>	<b>Invalid's Benefit</b>	<b>Sickness Benefit related</b>	<b>Unemployment Benefit related</b>	<b>Jobseeker Support</b>	<b>Supported Living Payment</b>	<b>Sole Parent Support</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2009</b>	1,315	851	775	747	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	<b>3,888</b>
<b>2010</b>	1,465	888	842	885	N/A	N/A	N/A	205	<b>4,285</b>
<b>2011</b>	1,526	891	809	765	N/A	N/A	N/A	191	<b>4,182</b>
<b>2012</b>	1,533	876	788	687	N/A	N/A	N/A	191	<b>4,075</b>
<b>2013</b>	1,434	860	794	647	N/A	N/A	N/A	159	<b>3,894</b>
<b>2014</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,567	960	1,115	79	<b>3,721</b>
<b>2015</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,566	943	1,068	51	<b>3,628</b>
<b>2016</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,540	960	972	53	<b>3,525</b>
<b>2017</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,530	970	887	81	<b>3,468</b>

**Notes:**

- Working age is clients aged 18 to 64.
- Main Benefits excludes NZ Superannuation; Veteran's Pension; Non-Beneficiary assistance; Orphan's Benefit; Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- Domestic Purpose Benefit related includes Domestic Purpose Benefit – Caring for Sick or Infirm; Domestic Purpose Benefit – Woman Alone; Domestic Purpose Benefit – Sole Parent.
- Sickness Benefit related includes Sickness Benefit, Sickness Benefit Hardship.
- Unemployment Benefit related includes Unemployment Benefit, Unemployment Benefit Hardship.
- Other includes all other main benefits, i.e. Emergency Benefit; Emergency Maintenance Allowance; Jobseeker Support; Student Hardship; Unemployment Benefit Training; Unemployment Benefit Training Hardship; Widow's Benefit; Youth Payment; Young Parent Payment.
- Introduction to new benefit categories with Welfare Reform changes (15 July 2013) resulted in a benefit migration; which will display N/A for some benefit categories where not applicable.