



15 AUG 2017

Dear

On 26 June 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The most recent statistics on the amount of people under the age of 19 (or their caregivers) receiving jobseeker support, the orphans benefit, youth payment or the unsupported Child's benefit?*

The following five tables attached show the number of dependents of clients, and the number of clients aged 18 years and under in receipt of a benefit as at 30 June 2017:

- Table 1 shows the number of clients aged 18 years and under in receipt of a benefit broken down by benefit type.
- Tables 2 and 3 show the number of dependent children for clients aged 18 years or under and clients aged 19 years or over respectively, in receipt of a main benefit or Young Parent Payment.
- Table 4 shows the number of dependent children for clients receiving Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- Table 5 shows the number of dependent clients and corresponding dependent children which are in receipt of Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Young Parent Payment provides clients aged between 16 and 19 years who have a dependent child. Clients receiving the Young Parent Payment are required to be enrolled in a full-time course of secondary or tertiary education; additionally the Ministry provides support with budgeting and parenting education programmes. This support provides young parents with the skills and abilities to gain financial independence, employment and parenting skills.

Descriptions of each of the benefits can be found on the Ministry's website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html

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

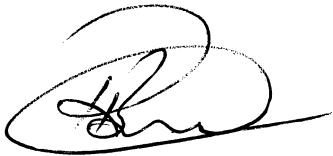
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter 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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding young beneficiaries, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table 1: The number of clients aged 18 years and under in receipt of a benefit broken down by benefit type as at 30 June 2017.

Benefit	Clients
Supported Living Payment	1,549
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	22
Emergency Benefit	21
Jobseeker Support	2,647
Youth Payment	1,573
Young Parent Payment	848
Total	6,660

Table 2: The number of dependent children of clients in receipt of a main benefit or Young Parent Payment aged 18 years or under as at 30 June 2017.

Benefit	Dependent Children
Supported Living Payment	7
Young Parent Payment	848
Emergency Benefit and Jobseeker Support	6
Total	861

Table 3: The number of dependent children of clients in receipt of a main benefit or Young Parent Payment aged 19 years or older as at 30 June 2017.

Benefit	Dependent Children
Supported Living Payment Overseas	439
New Zealand Superannuation and Veterans Pension	387
Emergency Maintenance Allowance	1,342
Sole Parent Support	117,478
Supported Living Payment	18,065
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	131
Emergency Benefit	671
Jobseeker Support	32,865
Young Parent Payment	949
Total	172,327

Table 4: Number of primary caregivers or guardians in receipt of Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit with corresponding dependent children as at 30 June 2017.

Benefit	Dependent Children	Clients
Orphan's Benefit	373	276
Unsupported Child's Benefit	14,993	10,001
Total	15,366	10,277

Table 5: Number of primary caregivers or guardians aged 18 years or under in receipt of Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit with corresponding dependent children as at 30 June 2017.

Benefit	Dependent Children	Clients
Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit	5	5
Total	5	5