



11 APR 2017

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On 16 January 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding clients with health conditions or disabilities receiving support through Work and Income.

Where a client is not able to earn a sufficient livelihood primarily due to a health condition, an injury or a disability, a Jobseeker Support or Support Living Payment may be considered. Eligibility for these types of benefits focuses on how the person's condition affects their capacity to work.

Clients receiving health-related benefits present a signed medical certificate from an independent health practitioner, which states the primary reason they are unable to work and will have deferred work obligations until such time as their health practitioner deems them ready for work.

In response to your request for the number of clients receiving support through Work and Income, please find attached tables one, two and three which show the number of working age clients receiving a Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability, broken down by incapacity group, age group and Work and Income regions, as at 31 December 2013 to 2016.

Regarding questions related to the average length of time a benefit was received, the average cost per person, the average length of time a client stayed in employment and the number of people who found employment each year; while the Ministry's benefit system can record and report data related to benefit payments, it does not track individual clients and their transition from one benefit to another or their employment status when a benefit is no longer required. The reason a client has left the benefit system is generally recorded under a benefit cancellation code and information relating to why a client has re-entered the benefit system or moved to a different benefit, is held on notes on individual case files. In order to provide the average length of time a client with a disability or medical condition stayed in employment or received a benefit and the average amount paid per person, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of individual files. As such your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. 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 Ministry is able to provide the attached:

- Table four which shows the number of working age clients receiving a Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability, broken down by incapacity and continuous duration, as at 31 December 2013 to 2016.
- Table five which shows the number of working age Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability benefits which have been cancelled under the cancellation code "Obtained work" for calendar years 2013 to 2016.

The below table shows the average weekly net amount paid for Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability as at 1 December 2013 to 2016.

As at 31 December	Average Supported Living Payment Weekly	Average Jobseeker Support-Health Condition, Injury or Disability Weekly
2013	\$252.00	\$198.00
2014	\$256.00	\$202.00
2015	\$258.00	\$203.00
2016	\$260.00	\$206.00

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Average net benefit rate is the average rate of benefit paid to client after tax and does not include any other forms of supplementary assistance e.g. accommodation supplement.

You may also be interested in the Ministry's 2015 client liability forecasts for Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability which is available on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/media-releases/2016/key-findings-2015.pdf

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 and attachments 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 relating to clients with health conditions, injuries or disabilities receiving support through Work and Income with us, please feel free to contact 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table One: The number of working age clients receiving a Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and, broken down by incapacity group and Work and Income regions, as at 31 December 2013 - 2016.

As at end of December	Incapacity Group	Region											
		Auckland Metro	Bay of Plenty	Canterbury	Central	East Coast	Nelson	Northland	Southern	Taranaki	Waikato	Wellington	Other
2013	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	15,397	3,778	6,440	3,509	2,669	1,994	2,287	3,746	2,485	4,168	4,221	85
	Intellectual disability	2,501	889	1,273	841	644	507	370	1,018	688	974	758	31
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	5,472	1,459	1,617	1,231	1,209	854	1,136	1,279	954	1,543	1,065	31
	Nervous system disorders	1,619	446	711	487	399	258	299	573	394	516	433	17
	Cardio-vascular disorders	2,916	798	647	505	539	247	532	469	475	748	537	19
	Cancer and congenital conditions	1,743	510	673	459	404	253	298	499	294	579	464	12
	Other disorders and conditions	10,602	2,421	2,962	1,821	1,605	998	1,538	1,784	1,474	2,400	2,136	43
2014	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	15,051	3,746	5,988	3,605	2,653	1,896	2,341	3,755	2,615	4,144	4,240	72
	Intellectual disability	2,477	864	1,242	829	640	492	363	1,001	678	967	751	23
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	5,351	1,464	1,515	1,238	1,184	822	1,140	1,225	971	1,525	1,034	16
	Nervous system disorders	1,627	443	714	497	414	267	301	586	405	539	431	15
	Cardio-vascular disorders	2,830	754	605	496	531	244	496	469	477	743	530	6
	Cancer and congenital conditions	1,786	511	702	456	409	252	293	531	296	590	469	6
	Other disorders and conditions	10,389	2,467	2,812	1,787	1,593	897	1,520	1,687	1,482	2,419	2,074	29

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Table one continued.

As at end of December	Incapacity Group	Region											
		Auckland Metro	Bay of Plenty	Canterbury	Central	East Coast	Nelson	Northland	Southern	Taranaki	Waikato	Wellington	Other
2015	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	15,195	3,837	6,567	3,749	2,839	1,982	2,482	3,822	2,716	4,383	4,388	60
	Intellectual disability	2,404	860	1,203	810	621	477	364	971	657	947	729	24
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	5,281	1,465	1,549	1,224	1,212	824	1,069	1,260	972	1,515	1,012	21
	Nervous system disorders	1,600	426	731	482	414	272	289	575	406	559	437	15
	Cardio-vascular disorders	2,701	719	586	481	531	S	489	456	480	720	512	S
	Cancer and congenital conditions	1,811	554	707	453	427	S	310	529	294	610	470	S
	Other disorders and conditions	9,913	2,271	2,856	1,752	1,649	931	1,434	1,697	1,437	2,381	1,965	20
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	15,515	4,089	6,930	3,940	2,948	2,191	2,617	4,100	2,906	4,568	4,393	90
	Intellectual disability	2,309	841	1,125	797	599	444	360	953	626	915	718	68
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	5,200	1,408	1,537	1,226	1,170	831	1,069	1,253	1,064	1,571	1,019	24
2016	Nervous system disorders	1,567	454	709	477	422	259	281	572	402	560	444	29
	Cardio-vascular disorders	2,637	687	544	475	545	248	528	460	471	683	477	9
	Cancer and congenital conditions	1,777	546	707	462	426	238	317	528	336	614	476	18
	Other disorders and conditions	9,647	2,306	2,876	1,715	1,724	931	1,506	1,664	1,488	2,379	1,903	41

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Incapacities are displayed according to the benefit fact sheet incapacity grouping. These groupings differ slightly by benefit, as such certain categories may differ to other reporting published by incapacity condition.
- S' represents a suppressed cell to protect client privacy.

Table Two: The number of working age clients receiving a Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability, broken down by incapacity and age group as at 31 December 2013 - 2016.

As at end of December	Incapacity Group	Age Group										
		18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	
2013	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	1,462	5,478	4,542	4,391	4,876	6,181	6,536	6,871	5,701	4,741	
	Intellectual disability	259	846	993	948	1,157	1,425	1,453	1,497	1,109	807	
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	94	364	410	473	773	1,446	2,219	3,211	3,948	4,912	
	Nervous system disorders	126	396	376	378	432	645	767	970	954	1,108	
	Cardio-vascular disorders	35	106	97	131	195	427	815	1,455	2,063	3,108	
	Cancer and congenital conditions	363	1,000	808	595	337	469	563	597	669	787	
	Other disorders and conditions	480	1,656	1,607	1,602	2,000	2,809	3,855	4,762	5,255	5,758	
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	1,459	5,186	4,472	4,196	4,529	5,933	6,405	6,922	5,985	5,019	
	Intellectual disability	215	772	1,014	914	1,093	1,382	1,416	1,502	1,153	866	
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	76	333	391	452	663	1,323	2,053	3,160	3,990	5,044	
2014	Nervous system disorders	125	418	366	389	418	657	749	981	1,019	1,117	
	Cardio-vascular disorders	29	101	105	128	201	400	808	1,378	2,032	2,999	
	Cancer and congenital conditions	347	956	881	629	361	441	558	605	710	813	
	Other disorders and conditions	459	1,551	1,501	1,534	1,888	2,679	3,638	4,713	5,306	5,887	
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	1,517	5,600	4,769	4,277	4,651	5,857	6,596	7,023	6,359	5,371	
	Intellectual disability	173	673	1,008	901	1,023	1,295	1,419	1,468	1,206	901	
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	74	289	424	443	617	1,195	2,028	3,142	4,120	5,072	
	Nervous system disorders	123	379	355	421	397	610	771	1,003	1,010	1,137	
	Cardio-vascular disorders	28	94	89	132	178	377	765	1,286	2,026	2,952	
	Cancer and congenital conditions	334	912	925	697	422	417	548	612	734	820	
2015	Other disorders and conditions	389	1,493	1,501	1,489	1,733	2,516	3,473	4,571	5,321	5,820	
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	1,536	5,992	5,219	4,516	4,664	5,786	6,936	7,139	6,718	5,781	
	Intellectual disability	168	561	967	881	963	1,217	1,418	1,374	1,278	928	
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	67	293	379	482	622	1,120	1,933	3,077	4,139	5,260	
	Nervous system disorders	107	376	368	405	415	575	749	971	1,067	1,143	
	Cardio-vascular disorders	27	111	112	132	188	356	753	1,255	1,942	2,888	
	Cancer and congenital conditions	324	900	924	717	480	402	546	621	716	815	
	Other disorders and conditions	403	1,465	1,548	1,547	1,662	2,367	3,389	4,424	5,418	5,957	
	2016	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	1,536	5,992	5,219	4,516	4,664	5,786	6,936	7,139	6,718	5,781
		Intellectual disability	168	561	967	881	963	1,217	1,418	1,374	1,278	928
Musculo-skeletal system disorders		67	293	379	482	622	1,120	1,933	3,077	4,139	5,260	
Nervous system disorders		107	376	368	405	415	575	749	971	1,067	1,143	
Cardio-vascular disorders		27	111	112	132	188	356	753	1,255	1,942	2,888	
Cancer and congenital conditions		324	900	924	717	480	402	546	621	716	815	
Other disorders and conditions		403	1,465	1,548	1,547	1,662	2,367	3,389	4,424	5,418	5,957	

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Incapacities are displayed according to the benefit fact sheet incapacity grouping. These groupings differ slightly by benefit, as such certain categories may differ to other reporting published by incapacity condition.

Table Three: The number of working age clients receiving a Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability, broken down by incapacity, as at 31 December 2013 - 2016.

Incapacity Group	As at the end of December			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Psychological or psychiatric conditions	50,779	50,106	52,020	54,287
Intellectual disability	10,494	10,327	10,067	9,755
Musculo-skeletal system disorders	17,850	17,485	17,404	17,372
Nervous system disorders	6,152	6,239	6,206	6,176
Cardio-vascular disorders	8,432	8,181	7,927	7,764
Cancer and congenital conditions	6,188	6,301	6,421	6,445
Other disorders and conditions	29,784	29,156	28,306	28,180

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Incapacities are displayed according to the benefit fact sheet incapacity grouping. These groupings differ slightly by benefit, as such certain categories may differ to other reporting published by incapacity condition.

Table Four: The number of working age clients receiving Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability, broken down by incapacity group and continuous duration, as at 31 December 2013 - 2016.

As at end of December	Incapacity Group	Continuous Duration										
		< 3 months	>3-6 months	>6 mths-1 year	>1-2 years	>2-3 years	>3-4 years	>4-5 years	>5-6 years	>6-8 years	>8-10 years	Over 10 years
2013	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	2,621	3,042	3,794	5,259	4,064	3,286	3,376	2,921	3,936	2,912	15,568
	Intellectual disability	27	239	56	148	195	184	181	220	567	539	8,138
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	720	1,153	1,099	1,770	1,544	1,337	1,364	1,077	1,434	1,159	5,193
	Nervous system disorders	67	227	155	308	351	392	335	349	543	451	2,974
	Cardio-vascular disorders	336	532	527	835	734	603	708	605	789	574	2,189
	Cancer and congenital conditions	127	258	202	370	414	402	353	350	701	550	2,461
	Other disorders and conditions	1,672	2,083	2,230	3,156	2,472	1,949	2,217	1,812	2,455	1,829	7,909
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	2,662	2,406	3,668	5,469	3,778	3,080	2,626	2,868	4,523	3,007	16,019
	Intellectual disability	23	19	40	337	183	197	173	174	480	538	8,163
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	689	645	1,139	2,070	1,357	1,241	1,142	1,199	1,658	1,092	5,253
2014	Nervous system disorders	63	86	153	462	349	359	371	326	631	462	2,977
	Cardio-vascular disorders	329	331	540	936	665	612	522	590	886	573	2,197
	Cancer and congenital conditions	134	134	215	467	419	395	358	315	641	607	2,616
	Other disorders and conditions	1,605	1,495	2,250	3,473	2,235	1,926	1,656	1,882	2,744	1,839	8,051

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Table four continued.

As at December	Incapacity Group	Continuous Duration										
		< 3 months	>3-6 months	>6 mths-1 year	>1-2 years	>2-3 years	>3-4 years	>4-5 years	>5-6 years	>6-8 years	>8-10 years	Over 10 years
2015	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	2,661	2,734	3,959	5,286	4,298	3,094	2,618	2,375	4,977	3,373	16,645
	Intellectual disability	11	16	34	103	364	171	180	160	372	534	8,122
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	659	699	1,136	1,686	1,690	1,122	1,021	997	1,915	1,147	5,332
	Nervous system disorders	51	67	150	310	443	351	327	353	639	496	3,019
	Cardio-vascular disorders	322	304	504	843	699	557	509	462	941	611	2,175
	Cancer and congenital conditions	123	140	250	372	470	365	364	314	607	625	2,791
	Other disorders and conditions	1,547	1,543	2,189	3,036	2,542	1,798	1,592	1,372	2,890	1,840	7,957
	Psychological or psychiatric conditions	2,962	2,898	4,125	5,746	4,100	3,690	2,708	2,319	4,506	3,931	17,302
	Intellectual disability	15	11	34	80	148	351	161	162	293	436	8,064
	Musculo-skeletal system disorders	710	682	1,146	1,713	1,341	1,422	984	923	1,827	1,307	5,317
2016	Nervous system disorders	71	63	148	314	305	393	324	309	625	575	3,049
	Cardio-vascular disorders	316	351	517	784	649	608	488	440	802	662	2,147
	Cancer and congenital conditions	125	138	234	399	380	416	331	332	580	565	2,945
	Other disorders and conditions	1,643	1,566	2,191	3,078	2,240	2,041	1,453	1,343	2,520	2,123	7,982

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Incapacities are displayed according to the benefit fact sheet incapacity grouping. These groupings differ slightly by benefit, as such certain categories may differ to other reporting published by incapacity condition.
- Continuous duration is how long the current recipients of a benefit (or benefit group) have been continuously receiving a benefit in the wider benefit system; including time on all benefits except Unsupported Childs Benefit, Orphan Benefit, NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension and non-beneficiary assistance

Table Five: The number of working age Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability benefit cancellations due to reason: 'Obtained work' for calendar years 2013 to 2016.

Calendar year	2013*		2014		2015		2016	
	Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related	Supported Living Payment	Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related	Supported Living Payment	Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related	Supported Living Payment	Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related	Supported Living Payment
Obtained Work	3,953	437	8,345	1,069	8,459	993	8,399	941

Notes:

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment carers and Supported Living Payment Overseas benefits.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- This is a count of cancellations, not a count of clients.
- A client may have more than one cancellation in the same time period.
- *The calendar year for 2013 is a partial year due to welfare reform. Information presented for this year is from 1 July to 31 December.