



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 6 JUN 2017

Dear

On 16 May 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of people in Dunedin (including South Dunedin and Mosgiel) who are currently receiving Jobseeker Support with a Health Condition Deferral for cancer.*

Jobseeker Support (health condition, injury or disability) is available to clients who are temporarily limited in their capacity to work or unable to work full-time due to a health condition, injury or disability. This support is also available to clients who are in employment but only able to work at a reduced level because of a health condition, injury or disability.

Recently a streamlined process was introduced where the number of medical certificates required for clients receiving a Jobseeker Support (health condition, injury or disability) with a cancer diagnosis has been reduced. Clients with a cancer diagnosis will need to provide one medical certificate that can be extended to cover 13 weeks, and if supporting information is provided about their treatment, medical coverage can be extended for the duration of that treatment.

The Ministry requires clients on Jobseeker Support (health condition, injury or disability) to have their medical eligibility reviewed regularly, especially in the early stages of illness or disability when their diagnosis may be unclear or likely to change.

I can advise that as at 31 March 2017, there are 16 clients receiving a Jobseeker Support (health condition, injury or disability) where the main incapacity is recorded as cancer, who are assigned to the Dunedin, South Dunedin and Mosgiel Service Centres.

For further information please see the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews-jobseeker-support/medical-reviews-01.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 regarding Jobseeker Support (health condition, injury or disability) 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

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

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery