



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

**23 FEB 2017**

Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)

Dear Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)

On 20 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information about the outcomes of Project 300.

Project 300 was an employer focused trial implemented in April 2015 which aimed to increase employment opportunities for people with a health condition or disability in the Canterbury region. As part of Project 300, the Ministry worked with employers to increase their understanding of people's barriers to work, and provided support to increase the likelihood of sustainable work outcomes.

By working closely with employers to create a more supportive work environment, Work and Income were able to help people with a health condition or disability into a range of employment opportunities that may not otherwise have been available.

Clients with a health condition or disability who indicated they wanted to work were offered intensive case management as part of Work and Income's business as usual support, and referred to suitable employment opportunities.

For the sake of clarity, I have addressed each of your questions in turn.

- *For each quarter how many individuals have retained employment since initial placement for 6 months and 12 months.*

The Ministry's case management system does not capture on-going employment information about clients once they exit benefit. However, the Ministry is able to extract clients' benefit status at a point of time, this works as an indicator on whether a client remains in employment.

At the end of Project 300, 584 clients had gained employment, of these 505 clients moved into full time employment and 79 clients moved into part time or casual work. From the 584 clients, 522 clients exited benefit during the 12 months the project ran. The remaining 62 clients continued to receive a main benefit while working, (it is possible to earn some income and remain eligible for a main benefit).

The following tables provide you information about the 522 Project 300 clients who exited benefit into work, broken down by benefit status after six months and 12 months, as at the end of November 2016.

**Table one:** The number of Project 300 clients who exited benefit into work, broken down by benefit status after six months, as at the end of November 2016:

Benefit status 6 months after exit	Number of Clients
Active on benefit	149
Not on benefit	373
Total	522

**Table two:** The number of Project 300 clients who exited benefit into work, broken down by benefit status after 12 months, as at the end of November 2016:

Benefit Status 1 year after exit	Number of Clients
Active on benefit	100
Not on benefit	210
Not reached a year since exit	212
Total	522

**Notes for both tables:**

- The data is point of time, which means clients may have moved off and on benefit within these periods.
- Active on benefit, includes if they are current, suspended or expired, on a main benefit at the point the data is run.
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- Benefit exits include cancellations and suspensions of benefit for into work reasons.
- *The number of placements for full time and part time employment*

During the project, a project coordinator manually recorded whether placements were into full time or part time employment. Unfortunately this data cannot be replicated from our case management systems.

For this reason, I am unable to provide you with the number of the Project 300 exits who were placed into either full time or part time employment as this information is held in notes on individual case files. Ministry staff would need to review each of the client files who have exited a main benefit to collate and prepare the information.

As such, I refuse your request 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.

- *For each how many were also placed into positions where the employer received a wage subsidy.*

I can advise you that 42 flexi wage subsidies were paid to employers.

Further information, including Hon Nicky Wagner, Minister for Disability Issues responses to a number of questions regarding Project 300 for written answer is available on the Parliament website at:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/?criteria.Keyword=project+300&criteria.QuestionNumber=&criteria.QuestionYear=&criteria.Subject=&criteria.Timeframe=365.00%3A00%3A00.000&criteria.DateFrom=&criteria.DateTo=&criteria.ParliamentNumber=-1&criteria.MemberOfParliament=Nicky+Wagner&criteria.Portfolio=>

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 after ten working days. 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 the outcomes of Project 300 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



Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**