



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

17 MAR 2017



On 13 January 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information concerning people with substance addictions receiving a benefit for the last ten years.

Beneficiaries receiving health-related benefits have 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.

A person's primary condition may be recorded by the Ministry as substance abuse, but there are often other associated conditions the person may also be managing. These could include, for example, liver disease, gastrointestinal problems and bacterial infections.

For clarity, your questions will be answered in turn:

- *What is the per capita number of people receiving the benefit due to a primary incapacity for substance abuse was in each of the previous regions every year for the last ten years.*

The Ministry is unable to provide the per capita number of people receiving benefits who have a primary incapacity of substance abuse, as the Service Delivery regions differ to those of the regional council regions. As such the per capita numbers of people receiving benefits are not reported in the manner that you have requested. Therefore your request regarding per capita numbers is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as this information does not exist.

- *What the total number of people receiving the benefit for any reason was in each of the previous regions every year for the last ten years.*

Tables 12 and 13 provide an overall summary for the number of people in receipt of a working age main benefit with a primary incapacity for substance abuse across all Work and Income regions and the number of working age main benefit recipients across all Work and Income regions, for the last ten years.

- *How many people were receiving the benefit due to a primary incapacity for substance abuse in each of the following regions every year for the last ten years: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Wellington, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago and Southland?*

Tables one to 11 address the areas you are seeking and are organised according to the Work and Income regions noted below:

Southern (includes Otago and Southland), Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki (includes Whanganui), Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Central (includes Manawatu), Wellington, Nelson (includes Marlborough and West Coast) and Canterbury.

Table One: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Southern Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	250	99	349
2008	0	0	253	89	342
2009	0	0	300	85	385
2010	0	0	287	100	387
2011	0	0	245	105	350
2012	0	0	242	96	338
2013	219	107	0	0	326
2014	179	112	0	0	291
2015	172	107	0	0	279
2016	170	121	0	0	291

Table Two: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Northland Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	213	48	261
2008	0	0	224	71	295
2009	0	0	221	79	300
2010	0	0	203	67	270
2011	0	0	185	65	250
2012	0	0	172	60	232
2013	144	57	0	0	201
2014	133	56	0	0	189
2015	120	53	0	0	173
2016	149	58	0	0	207

Table Three: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Auckland Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	1,429	315	1,744
2008	0	0	1,541	377	1,918
2009	0	0	1,712	416	2,128
2010	0	0	1,716	397	2,113
2011	0	0	1,616	377	1,993
2012	0	0	1,667	358	2,025
2013	1,409	349	0	0	1,758
2014	1,226	340	0	0	1,566
2015	1,181	345	0	0	1,526
2016	1,208	287	0	0	1,495

Table Four: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Waikato Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	250	131	381
2008	0	0	247	134	381
2009	0	0	343	135	478
2010	0	0	339	142	481
2011	0	0	352	142	494
2012	0	0	321	113	434
2013	255	122	0	0	377
2014	227	127	0	0	354
2015	200	122	0	0	322
2016	205	114	0	0	319

Table Five: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Taranaki Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	137	59	196
2008	0	0	137	81	218
2009	0	0	162	78	240
2010	0	0	163	68	231
2011	0	0	184	69	253
2012	0	0	147	68	215
2013	136	75	0	0	211
2014	133	84	0	0	217
2015	135	87	0	0	222
2016	137	81	0	0	218

Table Six: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Bay of Plenty Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support- Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	286	93	379
2008	0	0	333	88	421
2009	0	0	422	88	510
2010	0	0	402	89	491
2011	0	0	389	84	473
2012	0	0	320	76	396
2013	288	70	0	0	358
2014	294	74	0	0	368
2015	239	74	0	0	313
2016	243	73	0	0	316

Table Seven: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the East Coast Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support- Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	185	45	230
2008	0	0	174	64	238
2009	0	0	184	74	258
2010	0	0	190	74	264
2011	0	0	170	64	234
2012	0	0	160	66	226
2013	145	64	0	0	209
2014	135	76	0	0	211
2015	136	79	0	0	215
2016	153	82	0	0	235

Table Eight: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Central Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	244	119	363
2008	0	0	232	143	375
2009	0	0	275	150	425
2010	0	0	276	146	422
2011	0	0	210	134	344
2012	0	0	182	120	302
2013	180	129	0	0	309
2014	181	129	0	0	310
2015	151	126	0	0	277
2016	132	117	0	0	249

Table Nine: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Wellington Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	325	107	432
2008	0	0	325	130	455
2009	0	0	336	135	471
2010	0	0	308	113	421
2011	0	0	293	117	410
2012	0	0	299	112	411
2013	252	135	0	0	387
2014	213	142	0	0	355
2015	210	150	0	0	360
2016	202	142	0	0	344

Table 10: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Nelson (includes Marlborough and West Coast) Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	122	96	218
2008	0	0	134	94	228
2009	0	0	157	87	244
2010	0	0	142	76	218
2011	0	0	104	65	169
2012	0	0	88	58	146
2013	76	65	0	0	141
2014	69	56	0	0	125
2015	85	47	0	0	132
2016	90	45	0	0	135

Table 11: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse in the Canterbury Work and Income region as at 31 December from 2007 to 2016.

As at end of December quarter for years	Jobseeker Support-Healthcare, Injury or Disability	Supported Living payment	Sickness Benefit Related and Sickness Benefit Hardship	Invalid's Benefit	Total
2007	0	0	526	291	817
2008	0	0	582	351	933
2009	0	0	665	391	1,056
2010	0	0	640	390	1,030
2011	0	0	558	363	921
2012	0	0	484	340	824
2013	432	325	0	0	757
2014	338	324	0	0	662
2015	403	301	0	0	704
2016	412	297	0	0	709

The Ministry's benefit fact sheets provide information regarding the number of people who have been receiving benefits dated back to 2003 and can be found online at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/

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 people with substance abuse receiving benefits 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 12: Working age main benefit clients with a primary incapacity for substance abuse across all Work and Income regions (summary of previous tables).

As at end of December quarter for years	Northland	Auckland	Bay of Plenty	East Coast	Taranaki	Waikato	Central	Wellington	Nelson	Canterbury	Southern
2007	261	1,744	379	230	196	381	363	432	218	817	349
2008	295	1,918	421	238	218	381	375	455	228	933	342
2009	300	2,128	510	258	240	478	425	471	244	1,056	385
2010	270	2,113	491	264	231	481	422	421	218	1,030	387
2011	250	1,993	473	234	253	494	344	410	169	921	350
2012	232	2,025	396	226	215	434	302	411	146	824	338
2013	201	1,758	358	209	211	377	309	387	141	757	326
2014	189	1,566	368	211	217	354	310	355	125	662	291
2015	173	1,526	313	215	222	322	277	360	132	704	279
2016	207	1,495	316	235	218	319	249	344	135	709	291

Table 13: Working age main benefit clients across all Work and Income regions.

As at end of December quarter for years	Northland	Auckland	Bay of Plenty	East Coast	Taranaki	Waikato	Central	Wellington	Nelson	Canterbury	Southern
2007	14,193	80,936	23,274	16,331	14,455	20,699	16,429	20,668	9,796	26,035	17,919
2008	14,833	88,300	24,554	16,790	14,342	22,100	17,359	21,909	9,879	27,449	17,981
2009	17,548	109,134	29,166	19,533	16,275	26,974	20,073	25,813	11,222	32,667	21,186
2010	18,161	107,973	29,474	20,231	16,524	27,166	20,759	25,272	11,459	33,753	21,718
2011	18,317	104,545	29,761	20,019	16,837	27,046	20,848	24,599	11,619	31,220	21,878
2012	17,858	101,776	29,512	19,479	16,020	26,441	20,164	24,348	11,269	27,425	20,639
2013	17,535	94,878	28,877	18,910	15,365	25,724	19,701	23,416	11,053	24,492	19,791
2014	17,264	89,961	28,119	18,373	15,359	25,029	19,486	23,423	10,519	22,489	19,320
2015	16,893	84,636	26,998	18,386	15,599	25,697	19,060	23,223	10,470	23,596	18,961
2016	16,921	81,732	25,851	18,368	16,210	25,557	19,009	22,903	10,501	24,474	19,222