



On 6 December 2018, the Ministry received your email requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding the '\$3k to Christchurch' and '\$3k to Work' initiatives:

- *How many people have taken up these grants? (Separate figures for both programmes please)*
- *Do you have figures month by month since the programmes were initiated?*
- *From where to where have the people been moving to work? For example, do you have any data around which places have had the most people moving to, or away from?*

\$3K to Christchurch was introduced in July 2014 as a financial incentive to support clients wishing to move to Christchurch to address the labour shortage for the Christchurch rebuild. The amount granted for the initiative was determined to be a suitable amount to cover travel and relocation costs by the Government at the time. To receive this grant, clients needed to have a full-time job offer of 30 hours or more per week from a GST registered employer providing a permanent or fixed-term contract. The Ministry also worked with applicants to ensure they had suitable accommodation.

Following the success of \$3k to Christchurch, the Ministry ran a two month trial in Northland, Bay of Plenty, East Coast and Central to test whether there was interest in people moving to other job opportunities around New Zealand. The incentive payment was then extended further to all other Work and Income regions (except Auckland and Canterbury) in November 2015, as \$3K to Work. From July 2016, \$3K to Christchurch and \$3K to Work were merged into one programme and named \$3k to Work.

The annual budget for \$3k to Work is \$3 million and allows for about 1,000 grants to help people relocate into full time work each year. Funding is provided through the Ministry's Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme and the effectiveness of the programme is assessed each year to determine the uptake and number of people who remain off benefit.

The majority of those who access \$3k to Work are, on average, young men aged 20-29 years entering jobs in construction, agriculture, transport, warehousing and manufacturing.

Further information regarding the \$3k to Work initiative is available here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/3k-to-work.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/3k-to-work.html#null).

Please find enclosed two tables that show the total number of \$3k to Christchurch and \$3k to Work grants paid during the period 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2018, broken down by quarter, the region of the Service Centre where the grant was made and the region to which clients relocated.

Note that all clients who were granted \$3k to Christchurch prior to the December 2015 quarter, relocated to Christchurch and a location was not required to be noted by staff. This practise continued when the initiative was expanded to other regions. Therefore it is assumed that the large number of 'Unknown' location figures in table two represents clients who relocated to Christchurch.

In order to protect client privacy some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. These values are mainly five or fewer and secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

\$3k to Christchurch transitioned to \$3k to Work during the quarters ending December 2015 and June 2016 and both grants are recorded the same way in the Ministry's system. Therefore, I am unable to provide you with the data in the enclosed tables broken down by grant type over this period as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review hundreds of files. As such I refuse your request for this information 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 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 regarding \$3k to Christchurch and \$3k to Work 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



Marama Edwards  
**Group General Manager, Community Partnerships and Programmes**

**Table Two: Number of \$3k to Work and \$3k to Christchurch grants paid between the quarters ending December 2015 and September 2018 broken down by quarter and region relocated to.**

Region relocated to	Quarter ending											
	December 2015	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	December 2016	March 2017	June 2017	September 2017	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018
Auckland	10	38	36	54	44	57	84	75	64	77	56	67
Bay of Plenty	0	10	15	18	19	26	19	19	18	16	20	16
Canterbury	S	S	8	6	22	47	40	47	45	46	34	33
Central	S	S	0	S	S	10	S	6	S	11	9	S
East Coast	S	6	0	S	10	8	S	6	10	S	9	S
Gisborne	0	0	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawke's Bay	0	0	6	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manawatu/ Whanganui	0	S	6	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marlborough	0	0	0	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson	S	11	6	18	23	21	29	28	32	21	20	27
North Island	0	S	14	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northland	0	6	S	S	14	17	16	16	11	11	13	11
Otago	0	S	S	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Island	0	S	7	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	S	10	0	6	22	24	21	20	32	12	23	17
Taranaki	S	S	S	S	S	7	9	7	S	S	6	8
Tasman	0	0	0	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waikato	S	12	16	27	17	21	27	23	27	16	21	22
Wellington	0	10	11	18	26	22	15	16	16	15	19	12
West Coast	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	159	147	115	140	102	39	33	31	20	20	13	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>245</b>

**Notes:**

- This includes clients of all ages and benefit types
- This is a count of grants made for \$3k to work and \$3k to Christchurch
- \$3k to Christchurch was granted between the quarters ending June 2014 and June 2016
- \$3k to Work was granted between quarters ending September 2015 and September 2018
- This is a count of grants, not a count of clients
- Clients may be counted more than once if they have had multiple \$3k to work and \$3k to Christchurch grants during the time frame
- This table may differ from previously published numbers which counted individual clients, not grants
- All clients who were granted \$3k to Christchurch prior to the December 2015 quarter, relocated to Christchurch
- The location relocated to was not required to be noted by a Case Manager for the \$3k to Christchurch grant as there was only one location being relocated to. Therefore it is assumed that 'Unknown' location represents clients who relocated to Christchurch. To verify this would require review of individual case files and would amount to substantial manual collation. This work has not been undertaken in accordance with section 18(f) of the Act. It was considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. It was concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.
- This data is reliant on the Case Manager accurately recording the location relocated to in the client's notes
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell.

**Table One: Number of \$3k to Work and \$3k to Christchurch grants paid between the quarters ending June 2014 and September 2018, broken down by quarter and region of the Service Centre where the grant was made.**

Region of the Service Centre where the grant was made	Quarter ending																	
	June 2014	September 2014	December 2014	March 2015	June 2015	September 2015	December 2015	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	December 2016	March 2017	June 2017	September 2017	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018
Auckland Metro	0	64	48	24	34	18	13	16	10	9	9	9	12	13	18	14	14	16
Bay of Plenty	0	55	41	32	36	21	16	39	39	41	43	42	36	32	34	33	30	40
Canterbury	S	51	64	65	46	36	23	17	16	20	16	16	10	15	10	10	S	13
Central	0	30	25	16	12	8	S	20	20	21	14	27	24	24	27	26	21	16
East Coast	0	29	18	15	21	S	12	11	10	19	15	21	20	20	21	11	18	11
Nelson	0	79	60	43	43	25	35	39	27	55	60	50	37	39	37	38	36	32
Northland	0	17	41	28	40	17	16	27	34	44	34	33	48	53	40	39	39	36
Southern	0	73	41	39	30	30	38	42	35	40	40	35	26	34	37	19	23	26
Taranaki	0	28	8	19	11	11	6	11	21	15	21	16	21	16	16	15	S	10
Waikato	0	20	24	14	15	S	S	19	16	23	17	21	35	22	22	16	15	17
Wellington	S	43	19	13	15	12	S	10	10	12	20	10	14	10	8	15	14	10
Other/Unknown	0	9	21	12	27	12	10	18	20	21	22	19	18	16	16	16	16	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>245</b>

**Notes:**

- This includes clients of all ages and benefit types
- 'Other/Unknown' represents those service centres that do not represent a geographic location such as Centralised Unit Housing Service Centre, Studylink Processing Centre, National Office, New Zealand Super Service Centre and other service centres not in a Work and Income Region
- This is a count of grants made for \$3k to work and \$3k to Christchurch
- \$3k to Christchurch was granted between the quarters ending June 2014 and June 2016
- \$3k to Work was granted between quarters ending September 2015 and September 2018
- This is a count of grants, not a count of clients
- Clients may be counted more than once if they have had multiple \$3k to work and \$3k to Christchurch grants during the time frame
- This table may differ from previously published numbers which counted individual clients, not grants
- The process for a Case Manager to grant \$3k to Christchurch was available a few days prior to 1 July 2014 and a small number were granted
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell.