



24 JAN 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 21 November 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *An update of the table on page 12 www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/accommodation-supplement-recipient*
- *A breakdown of how many recipients are in each family type below by income source (ie, not on main benefit, on income-tested main benefit, on NZ Super): Couple and one child, Couple with two or more children, Single person with no children, Sole parent with one child, Sole parent with two or more children*

The Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit which provides financial assistance towards accommodation costs. It is available for people who rent, board or own their own home. A person does not have to be receiving a benefit to be assessed to qualify for Accommodation Supplement. It is calculated using a formula that takes into account geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income, and accommodation type.

Enclosed are the following two tables:

- Table One shows the characteristics of Accommodation Supplement primary recipients as at 30 September 2018
- Table Two shows the number of Accommodation Supplement primary recipients as at 30 September 2018, broken down by family type and income source.

Please note that on 1 April 2018, the maximum rates for Accommodation Supplement increased. Further information is available about this increase on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2017/families-package.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.

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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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response concerning Accommodation Supplement recipients, 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



Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Table One: Characteristics of Accommodation Supplement primary recipients as at 30 September 2018.

	Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Payment amount	Payment less than maximum payment	222,686	76%
	Receiving maximum payment	69,320	24%
	Total	292,006	100%
Temporary Additional Support	Not receiving Temporary Additional Support (or Special Benefit)	232,191	80%
	Receiving Temporary Additional Support (or Special Benefit)	59,815	20%
	Total	292,006	100%
Accommodation type	Renting	194,890	67%
	Boarding	65,112	22%
	Own home	32,004	11%
	Total	292,006	100%
Benefit status	Receiving an income tested main benefit	193,396	66%
	New Zealand Superannuation or Veterans Pension	40,753	14%
	Not on main benefit	57,857	20%
	Total	292,006	100%
Area	Area 1	101,165	35%
	Area 2	99,432	34%
	Area 3	46,994	16%
	Area 4	44,415	15%
	Total	292,006	100%
Family type	Couple with no children	22,443	8%
	Couple with one child	9,107	3%
	Single person with no children	167,874	57%
	Sole parent with one child	38,095	13%
	Couple with two or more children	15,906	5%
	Sole parent with two or more children	38,581	13%
	Total	292,006	100%

Note:

- This table contains Ministry of Social Development administrative data.
- Some statistics have not been observed and have been derived using the microsimulation model.
- The primary recipient is the main applicant of Accommodation Supplement.

Table Two: Accommodation Supplement primary recipients as at 30 September 2018, broken down by family type and income source.

Family type	Income-tested Benefit	New Zealand Superannuation/ Veterans Pension	Not on a main benefit	Total
Couple with no children	8,420	9,919	4,104	22,443
Couple with one child	2,659	195	6,253	9,107
Single person with no children	122,917	30,253	14,704	167,874
Sole parent with one child	27,840	229	10,026	38,095
Couple with two or more children	4,261	89	11,556	15,906
Sole parent with two or more children	27,299	68	11,214	38,581
Total	193,396	40,753	57,857	292,006