



07 JUL 2020

Dear

On 9 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *information on volume and \$ on MSD grants and loans for dental treatment for the South Island (SI) and by each SI District Health Board (DHB) region*

The Ministry provides recoverable and non-recoverable financial assistance to people to meet an immediate need for essential items such as food, health costs (including medical and dental costs), power and other costs. These payments are available to any person as long as they meet an income and asset test, and they are unable to meet the cost from any other source.

The Ministry recognises that individuals who are in receipt of a benefit may not be able to budget for unexpected dental costs, and support is available for those who meet the criteria to help with the cost of dental work.

The maximum amount payable to a person applying for a non-recoverable Special Needs Grant towards the cost of dental treatment is \$300 within any 52-week period. Where exceptional circumstances exist, this amount may be exceeded or more than one payment may be made. In situations where there are no exceptional circumstances, or where individuals do not meet the qualifying criteria for a Special Needs Grant, they may qualify for an Advance Payment of Benefit (APB) to meet any or all remaining costs. The amount of an APB depends on the client's immediate need. However, unless exceptional circumstances exist, these payments must not exceed six weeks of the client's full benefit rate.

All dental treatments funded through the Ministry must be provided by a health agency or registered dental practitioner. Examples of a qualifying dental situation include, but are not limited to, root treatment, tooth extraction, tooth restoration and treatment of acute infection.

Furthermore, SNG grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants are recorded by MSD regions and Work and Income service centres, not DHB regions.

Please find enclosed five tables which show the number and amount of 'Advance Payment of Benefit' grants and 'Special Needs Grants' for emergency dental treatment for the time period 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, for the South Island of New Zealand, broken down by Service Centre and quarter, as outlined below:

- *Table One: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the Canterbury, Nelson,*

*Southern regions between 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 broken down by Service Centre and type of grant.*

- *Table Two: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by Service Centre and type of grant for the quarter ending June 2019.*
- *Table Three: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions by Service Centre and type of grant for the quarter ending September 2019.*
- *Table Four: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by Service Centre and type of grant for the quarter ending December 2019.*
- *Table Five: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by Service Centre and type of grant for the quarter ending March 2020.*

Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants for emergency dental treatment can also be granted by a Work and Income contact centre, as well as by other Ministry business units across the country (e.g., Studylink Processing Centre, Youth Service Support Unit, Central Processing Unit). However, when such grants are made at one of these centres, the region from which the client applied is not recorded. This means that the Ministry is unable to say how many of these clients reside in the South Island of New Zealand. For this reason, this information has been excluded in the data provided to you.

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 regarding the number and amount of SNG's and ADV's approved for emergency dental treatment and any attached documents 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 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 about SNGs and Advance Payment of Benefit grants, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager, Issues Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions between 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 broken down by Service Centre and type of grant.**

Region	Service Centre	Type of grant				Total (SNG+ADV) 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	
		SNG		ADV		Number	Amount
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
Canterbury	Ashburton	100	\$24,459.00	82	\$54,859.08	182	\$79,318.08
	Hornby	245	\$66,710.50	192	\$123,979.12	437	\$190,689.62
	Papanui	322	\$83,909.93	274	\$157,278.23	596	\$241,188.16
	Linwood	343	\$91,062.11	266	\$163,767.97	609	\$254,830.08
	Sydenham	284	\$73,276.75	224	\$137,922.50	508	\$211,199.25
	Riccarton	124	\$33,288.26	93	\$70,436.08	217	\$103,724.34
	New Brighton	231	\$61,048.73	191	\$92,706.74	422	\$153,755.47
	Rangiora	162	\$42,890.50	141	\$101,347.20	303	\$144,237.70
	Canterbury Youth Service	12	\$3,600.00	11	\$5,683.46	23	\$9,283.46
	Shirley	182	\$46,509.05	161	\$89,225.14	343	\$135,734.19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>\$526,754.83</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$997,205.52</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>\$1,523,960.35</b>
	Nelson	Richmond	269	\$70,713.61	163	\$56,771.17	432
Blenheim		264	\$70,012.10	193	\$127,704.17	457	\$197,716.27
Nelson		369	\$94,477.35	225	\$112,143.42	594	\$206,620.77
Motuoka		278	\$72,845.00	155	\$53,121.49	433	\$125,966.49
Westport		201	\$57,354.49	185	\$156,874.77	386	\$214,229.26
Greymouth		212	\$58,378.53	188	\$149,625.67	400	\$208,004.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>\$423,781.08</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>\$656,240.69</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>\$1,080,021.77</b>	
Southern	Alexandra	49	\$13,938.39	34	\$28,936.70	83	\$42,875.09
	Baldutha	90	\$25,036.00	89	\$59,327.40	179	\$84,363.40
	Dunedin Central	389	\$96,215.84	274	\$146,790.09	663	\$243,005.93
	Oamaru	121	\$31,120.00	120	\$34,294.47	241	\$65,414.47

Invercargill	174	\$33,768.00	119	\$39,065.89	293	\$72,833.89
Gore	70	\$17,089.92	61	\$28,367.51	131	\$45,457.43
Queenstown	39	\$10,300.00	26	\$18,153.18	65	\$28,453.18
South Dunedin	150	\$36,119.60	108	\$48,508.16	258	\$84,627.76
Mosgiel	72	\$18,846.00	60	\$27,682.00	132	\$46,528.00
Timaru	374	\$97,235.06	194	\$56,929.38	568	\$154,164.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>\$379,668.81</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>\$488,054.78</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>\$867,723.59</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,126</b>	<b>\$1,330,204.72</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>\$2,141,500.99</b>	<b>8,955</b>	<b>\$3,471,705.71</b>

**Table Two: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by service centre and type of grant for the quarter ending June 2019.**

Region	Service Centre	In the Quarter						Total (SNG+ADV) June 2019 quarter		
		Jun-19		SNG		ADV		Number	Amount	
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
Canterbury	Ashburton and Canterbury Youth Service	32	8,073	21	13,612	53	21,685			
	Hornby	68	\$19,530.00	55	\$31,253.72	123	\$50,783.72			
	Linwood	108	\$27,493.76	71	\$38,424.00	179	\$65,917.76			
	New Brighton	55	\$14,158.00	45	\$20,501.14	100	\$34,659.14			
	Papanui	84	\$23,063.00	52	\$36,963.82	136	\$60,026.82			
	Rangiora	37	\$9,655.00	35	\$27,820.00	72	\$37,475.00			
	Riccarton	26	\$6,818.00	16	\$8,635.00	42	\$15,453.00			
	Shirley	44	\$11,708.05	37	\$17,890.60	81	\$29,598.65			
	Sydenham	55	\$15,139.00	54	\$31,802.78	109	\$46,941.78			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>\$135,637.81</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>\$226,902.56</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>\$362,540.37</b>			
	Nelson	Blenheim	69	\$17,591.97	53	\$40,698.00	122	\$58,289.97		
		Greymouth	56	\$15,563.11	48	\$42,939.07	104	\$58,502.18		
		Motueka	73	\$18,742.14	34	\$15,762.25	107	\$34,504.39		
Nelson		82	\$21,586.74	50	\$23,454.97	132	\$45,041.71			
Richmond		62	\$15,793.35	37	\$13,289.50	99	\$29,082.85			
Westport		44	\$12,480.50	41	\$39,935.77	85	\$52,416.27			
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>\$101,757.81</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>\$176,079.56</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>\$277,837.37</b>				
Southern	Alexandra	S	\$3,187.50	S	\$3,555.78	S	\$6,743.28			
	Balclutha	16	\$4,323.00	17	\$10,229.50	33	\$14,552.50			
	Dunedin Central	88	\$21,554.54	55	\$38,129.50	143	\$59,684.04			

Gore	14	\$3,613.00	11	\$2,877.99	25	\$6,490.99
Invercargill	37	\$7,670.00	27	\$8,799.09	64	\$16,469.09
Mosgiel	23	\$6,148.00	17	\$7,713.00	40	\$13,861.00
Oamaru	39	\$9,605.00	25	\$6,690.47	64	\$16,295.47
Queenstown	S	\$2,265.00	S	\$7,180.18	S	\$9,445.18
South Dunedin	24	\$5,292.00	15	\$7,924.00	39	\$13,216.00
Timaru	102	\$26,352.58	50	\$11,846.00	152	\$38,198.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>\$90,010.62</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>\$104,945.51</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>\$194,956.13</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>\$327,406.24</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>\$507,927.63</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>\$835,333.87</b>

Table Three: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by service centre and type of grant for the quarter ending September 2019.

Region	Service Centre	In the Quarter						Total (SNG+ADV)	
		SNG		ADV		September 2019 quarter			
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
Canterbury	Ashburton and Canterbury Youth Service	23	5,675	19	15,597	42	21,272		
		Hornby	61	\$16,216.00	45	\$28,554.52	106	\$44,770.52	
		Linwood	89	\$24,659.00	73	\$45,533.81	162	\$70,192.81	
		New Brighton	57	\$15,394.73	39	\$18,623.67	96	\$34,018.40	
		Papanui	75	\$19,627.00	75	\$43,235.51	150	\$62,862.51	
		Rangiora	37	\$9,704.00	32	\$23,245.20	69	\$32,949.20	
		Riccarton	24	\$5,875.00	19	\$19,968.00	43	\$25,843.00	
		Shirley	47	\$11,611.00	47	\$32,283.68	94	\$43,894.68	
		Sydenham	71	\$17,992.75	51	\$32,145.98	122	\$50,138.73	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>\$126,754.48</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>\$259,187.37</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>\$385,941.85</b>	
		Nelson	Blenheim	61	\$15,930.00	48	\$27,966.45	109	\$43,896.45
			Greymouth	53	\$14,660.43	45	\$33,465.50	98	\$48,125.93
			Motueka	84	\$22,210.00	47	\$16,166.50	131	\$38,376.50
Nelson	95		\$24,421.69	66	\$38,231.84	161	\$62,653.53		
Richmond	73		\$19,786.72	50	\$18,672.73	123	\$38,459.45		
Westport	62		\$17,639.99	55	\$45,496.01	117	\$63,136.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>		<b>\$114,648.83</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>\$179,999.03</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>\$294,647.86</b>		
Southern	Alexandra	S	\$3,483.89	S	\$10,696.84	S	\$14,180.73		
	Balclutha	23	\$6,851.00	24	\$15,288.90	47	\$22,139.90		
	Dunedin Central	109	\$27,378.10	79	\$48,447.01	188	\$75,825.11		



Gore	19	\$4,659.33	16	\$9,216.23	35	\$13,875.56
Invercargill	40	\$6,579.00	30	\$10,587.89	70	\$17,166.89
Mosgiel	19	\$5,257.00	15	\$5,686.50	34	\$10,943.50
Oamaru	30	\$8,541.00	44	\$13,512.00	74	\$22,053.00
Queenstown	S	\$3,346.00	S	\$6,892.00	S	\$10,238.00
South Dunedin	54	\$13,205.00	37	\$17,313.00	91	\$30,518.00
Timaru	80	\$22,286.98	47	\$17,768.50	127	\$40,055.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>\$101,587.30</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>\$155,408.87</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>\$256,996.17</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>\$342,990.61</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>\$594,595.27</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>\$937,585.88</b>

**Table Four: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the regions Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by service centre and type of grant for the quarter ending December 2019.**

Region	Service centre	In the Quarter						Total (SNG+ADV)	
		Dec-19						December 2019 quarter	
		SNG			ADV			Number	Amount
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number			
Canterbury	Ashburton and Canterbury Youth Service	27	6,882	19	11,915	46	18,797		
		59	\$15,209.00	45	\$28,806.00	104	\$44,015.00		
	59	\$15,458.00	48	\$25,400.64	107	\$40,858.64			
	57	\$15,524.00	53	\$22,331.92	110	\$37,855.92			
	95	\$25,031.00	82	\$44,129.32	177	\$69,160.32			
	40	\$11,014.50	32	\$25,830.20	72	\$36,844.70			
	26	\$7,357.76	22	\$17,463.88	48	\$24,821.64			
	42	\$10,856.00	33	\$16,617.36	75	\$27,473.36			
	63	\$15,800.00	53	\$24,912.51	116	\$40,712.51			
	<b>468</b>	<b>\$123,132.26</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>\$217,406.71</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>\$340,538.97</b>			
	Nelson	Blenheim	77	\$20,449.63	52	\$29,402.45	129	\$49,852.08	
		Grey-mouth	59	\$16,774.00	51	\$30,470.94	110	\$47,244.94	
		Motu-eka	57	\$14,688.00	33	\$8,327.25	90	\$23,015.25	
Nelson		106	\$27,048.64	64	\$27,804.31	170	\$54,852.95		
Richmond		76	\$19,987.04	42	\$14,732.75	118	\$34,719.79		
Westport		42	\$11,915.00	40	\$22,386.99	82	\$34,301.99		
<b>Total</b>		<b>417</b>	<b>\$110,862.31</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>\$133,124.69</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>\$243,987.00</b>		
Southern	Alexandra	S	\$2,685.00	S	\$10,665.20	S	\$13,350.20		
	Balclutha	25	\$6,715.00	20	\$17,477.00	45	\$24,192.00		
	Dunedin Central	112	\$27,372.00	80	\$32,133.58	192	\$59,505.58		

Gore	21	\$4,935.59	11	\$4,401.30	32	\$9,336.89
Invercargill	50	\$8,561.00	29	\$8,371.91	79	\$16,932.91
Mosgiel	15	\$4,095.00	16	\$5,820.50	31	\$9,915.50
Oamaru	34	\$8,260.00	39	\$10,532.00	73	\$18,792.00
Queenstown	S	\$2,589.00	S	\$1,538.00	S	\$4,127.00
South Dunedin	43	\$10,100.60	28	\$14,103.00	71	\$24,203.60
Timaru	106	\$27,766.00	53	\$14,836.00	159	\$42,602.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>\$103,079.19</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>\$119,878.49</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>\$222,957.68</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>\$337,073.76</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>\$470,409.89</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>\$807,483.65</b>

**Table Five: Number and amount of Special Needs Grants and Advance Payment of Benefit grants approved for emergency dental treatment in the Canterbury, Nelson, Southern regions broken down by service centre and type of grant for the quarter ending March 2020.**

Region	Service centre	In the Quarter						Total (SNG+ADV) March 2020 quarter		
		Mar-20		Mar-20						
		Type of grant		Type of grant						
		SNG	ADV	SNG	ADV					
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
Canterbury	Ashburton and Canterbury Youth Service	30	7,429	34	19,419	64	26,848			
	Hornby	57	\$15,755.50	47	\$35,364.88	104	\$51,120.38			
	Linwood	87	\$23,451.35	74	\$54,409.52	161	\$77,860.87			
	New Brighton	62	\$15,972.00	54	\$31,250.01	116	\$47,222.01			
	Papanui	68	\$16,188.93	65	\$32,949.58	133	\$49,138.51			
	Rangiora	48	\$12,517.00	42	\$24,451.80	90	\$36,968.80			
	Riccarton	48	\$13,237.50	36	\$24,369.20	84	\$37,606.70			
	Shirley	49	\$12,334.00	44	\$22,433.50	93	\$34,767.50			
	Sydenham	95	\$24,345.00	66	\$49,061.23	161	\$73,406.23			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>\$141,230.28</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>\$293,708.88</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>\$434,939.16</b>			
	Nelson	Blenheim	57	\$16,040.50	40	\$29,637.27	97	\$45,677.77		
		Greymouth	44	\$11,380.99	44	\$42,750.16	88	\$54,131.15		
Motuoka		64	\$17,204.86	41	\$12,865.49	105	\$30,070.35			
Nelson		86	\$21,420.28	45	\$22,652.30	131	\$44,072.58			
Richmond		58	\$15,146.50	34	\$10,076.19	92	\$25,222.69			
Westport		53	\$15,319.00	49	\$49,056.00	102	\$64,375.00			
<b>Total</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>\$96,512.13</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>\$167,037.41</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>\$263,549.54</b>			
Southern	Alexandra	S	\$4,582.00	S	\$4,018.88	S	\$8,600.88			
	Balclutha	26	\$7,147.00	28	\$16,332.00	54	\$23,479.00			
	Dunedin Central	80	\$19,911.20	60	\$28,080.00	140	\$47,991.20			

Gore	16	\$3,882.00	23	\$11,871.99	39	\$15,753.99
Invercargill	47	\$10,958.00	33	\$11,307.00	80	\$22,265.00
Mosgiel	15	\$3,346.00	12	\$8,462.00	27	\$11,808.00
Oamaru	18	\$4,714.00	12	\$3,560.00	30	\$8,274.00
Queenstown	S	\$2,100.00	S	\$2,543.00	S	\$4,643.00
South Dunedin	29	\$7,522.00	28	\$9,168.16	57	\$16,690.16
Timaru	86	\$20,829.50	44	\$12,478.88	130	\$33,308.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>\$84,991.70</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>\$107,821.91</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>\$192,813.61</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>\$322,734.11</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>\$568,568.20</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>\$891,302.31</b>

**Notes for tables one to five:**

- This is number and amount approved
- A client may have more than one grant in the reported period
- Approved amount can be different to the spent amount
- Site is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant
- Region is based on the Work and Income region where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'
- Note that SNG is a Special Needs Grant and ADV is Advance Payment of Benefit