



20 JUL 2020

Dear

On 4 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many children are currently receiving the Work and Income childcare subsidy for ECE attendance, compared with the last available date before the lockdown?*

On 22 June 2020, the Ministry extended your request in order to provide you with data from June 2020.

Work and Income provides income support and employment services throughout New Zealand and offers a single point of contact for New Zealanders needing work-search support, income support and in-work support.

Work and Income also administers Childcare Subsidy and the Out of School Care and Recreation subsidy which provides financial support for childcare, based on a person's income and the number of children they have.

Childcare Subsidy is a non-taxable payment that aims to assist clients with dependent children to undertake and remain in employment, education or training which a client can receive for up to 50 hours a week. You can find more general information about Childcare Subsidy on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/childcare-subsidy.html.

Please find the table below which outlines the number of Childcare Subsidies for children in early childhood education as at the end of February and June 2019 and 2020.

Number of Childcare Subsidies for children in early childhood education at the end of February and June 2019 and 2020.

Month	Year	
	2019	2020
February	21,133	20,664
June	22,353	15,631

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. 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Childcare Subsidies, 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



Bridget Saunders
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Issue Resolution, Service Delivery