



24 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 July 2023, you sent two emails to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am emailing for a request for information of the age range and ethnicity of the youth who are on the young parent benefit and how much they receive comparatively to the 'normal parent benefit'.*
- *Also the number of children supported by youth parents, so both numbers of parents and the number of children as well*
- *If possible their housing situation would also be beneficial*

Young Parent Payment (YPP) is a weekly payment for young parents aged 16 to 19 to help towards their living costs so they can get back into school, training, or work-based learning.

Young parents who received YPP are subject to youth activity obligations. These obligations include being engaged in, or available for, full-time education, training, or work-based learning (which could include enrolling in a Teen Parent Unit). Additionally, they must attend and successfully complete a budgeting and parenting programme, as well as work with a Youth Coach who will support them in achieving their obligations and addressing any barriers they might have.

There is a range of support available through Youth Service. You can read more about this here: www.youthservice.govt.nz/payments/young-parent-payment.

The Ministry has interpreted 'normal parent benefit' to be Sole Parent Support (SPS). YPP and SPS rates can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/documents/deskfile/benefit-rate-summaries/benefitratesummary-2023-04-01.pdf.

New Zealanders in need of Public Housing are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in Public Housing who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). The housing situation of people on the Public Housing Register varies widely.

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

An Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards a client's accommodation costs. A person does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for Accommodation Supplement.

Please find attached the **Appendix** which contains the following tables:

- **Table One:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients as at the end of June 2023, broken down by number of children included.
- **Table Two:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients as at the end of June 2023, broken down by age group.
- **Table Three:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients and if they are on the Public Housing Register or not as at the end of June 2023, broken down by ethnicity.
- **Table Four:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients and if they are on Tenancy or not as at the end of June 2023, broken down by ethnicity.
- **Table Five:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients and if they are in Emergency Housing or not as at the end of June 2023, broken down by ethnicity.
- **Table Six:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients and if they are in receipt of Accommodation Supplement or not as at the end of June 2023, broken down by ethnicity.
- **Table Seven:** Number of Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients in receipt of an Accommodation Supplement as at the end of June 2023, by ethnicity and tenure type.

Please note that in **Table One**, the count of young parents categorised under number of children listed as 'zero', refers to individuals who are partners of other YPP clients. The children are linked to the other parent.

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'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 Young Parent Payment data, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**