



21 December 2023

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2023 requesting statistics relating to the Disability Allowance (DA) and those with Type 1 Diabetes. Thank you also for the phone conversation on 23 November 2023 and your further emails clarifying your request.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Information responding to your request will be included in the attached **Appendix**. The appendix contains useful contextual information and notes for each table. Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

Please note the following notes relating to each set of data released as part of this response:

- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

1) Queries relating to the Child Disability Allowance

All requests are for Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). If no T1D specific data is kept, please provide combined T1 and T2 Diabetes data.

1) How many whānau received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022?

2) What number of whānau who received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Māori?

3) What number of whānau who received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Pacific?

4) *What number of whānau who received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Asian?*

5) *What number of whānau who received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were European?*

6) *What is the number of whānau who received the child disability allowance for a child with a diagnosis with T1D in each year from 2016-2022 by region?*

7) *What number of whānau who stopped receiving the child disability allowance for a child with T1D aged under 18 years of age in each year from 2016-2022?*

8) *What number of whānau who stopped receiving the child disability allowance for a child with T1D who turned 18 years of age in each year from 2016-2022?*

Child Disability Allowance (CDA) is paid in acknowledgement of the significant additional constant care and attention provided by parents or caregivers to a child or young person who has a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability. It is the extra care that is the defining factor, not the child's diagnosis. Further information relating to CDA can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/introduction.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/qualifications.html>.

Also, the following link relates to information on specific conditions under CDA, including type 1 diabetes in children: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/child-disability-allowance/information-on-specific-conditions-and-disabilitie-01.html>

Diagnoses are not centrally recorded for CDA and are instead recorded in individual client's notes. In order to provide you with information regarding CDA for children with diabetes, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the 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.

2) Queries relating to the Disability Allowance

Disability Allowance (DA) provides non-taxable assistance to people who have ongoing, additional costs because of a disability. DA can also be paid to the primary client on behalf of a dependent child who has additional on-going costs directly related to their disability. You can read more about the DA here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/index.html>.

All requests are for type 1 diabetes. If no data specific to Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) is kept, please provide data for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

As mentioned, the Ministry is unable to provide data solely on Type 1 diabetes. As such, we are providing you with data covering diabetes broadly.

a) Queries relating to ethnicity

- 1) How many individuals received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022?*
- 2) What number of individuals who received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Māori?*
- 3) What number of individuals who received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Pacific?*
- 4) What number of individuals who received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were Asian?*
- 5) What number of individuals who received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022 were European?*

While not specifically requested, I note that you appear to be interested in data regarding children within the DA. Regrettably, the Ministry does not record ethnicity data for children. Any request for child ethnicity data for DA would be refused under section 18(g) of the Act, under the basis that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

Table Three in the **Appendix** relates to the number of DA recipients for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults as at the end of December for 2016 to 2022, broken down by ethnicity.

Table Four in the **Appendix** relates to the average weekly cost of DA for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults as at the end of December for 2016 to 2022, broken down by ethnicity.

b) Query relating to region

- 6) What is the number of individuals who received the disability allowance for costs related to T1D in each year from 2016-2022 by region?*

Table One in the **Appendix** relates to the number of DA recipients for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults and children as at the end of December 2016 to 2022, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

Table Two in the **Appendix** relates to the average weekly cost of DA for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults and children as at the end of December 2016 to 2022, broken down by TLA.

c) Queries relating to cost type

- 7) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to T1D were approved in each year from 2016-2022?*
- 9) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to continuous glucose monitoring for T1D were approved in each year from 2016-2022?*
- 11) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to food for T1D were approved in each year from 2016-2022?*

13) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to medicines for T1D were approved in each year from 2016-2022?

15) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to medical appointments for T1D were approved in each year from 2016-2022?

Table Five in the **Appendix** relates to the number of DA recipients for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults and children as at the end of December 2016 to 2022, broken down by disability allowance cost type.

Table Six in the **Appendix** relates to the average weekly cost of DA for those with the incapacity 'diabetes' for adults and children as at the end of December 2016 to 2022, broken down by disability allowance cost type.

In order to provide you with information regarding the specific costs requested (continuous glucose monitoring, food, medicines, and medical appointments specifically for diabetes), Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the 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 information provided in the previously discussed tables all relate to recipients of DA. In order to give you a more complete picture of diabetes within the context of DA, we are providing you with **Table Seven** in the **Appendix**, which covers the number of grants for DA with the incapacity 'diabetes' in the calendar years 2016 to 2022.

8) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to T1D were declined in each year from 2016-2022?

10) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to continuous glucose monitoring for T1D were declined in each year from 2016-2022?

12) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to food for T1D were declined in each year from 2016-2022?

14) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to medicines for T1D were declined in each year from 2016-2022?

16) How many applications for the disability allowance for costs related to medical appointments for T1D were declined in each year from 2016-2022?

I note that these questions refer to costs being approved or declined. The Ministry is unable to report on grants and declines for Disability Allowance broken down only by those with diabetes. This is because incapacity types such as diabetes are only recorded on the successful grant of an application. As such, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, under the basis that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

d) Request for documents

17) Please provide all policy, advice and internal communications relating to applications for the Disability Allowance to fully or partially subsidise the costs of continuous glucose monitoring for Type 1 diabetes.

Guidance relating to the DA can be found on the Ministry's website here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/disability-allowance/qualifications.html>. While this relates to all of DA, this will cover the content that you are requesting.

The cost of buying equipment or other one-off items cannot be included in DA, as the costs are not regular or ongoing. This extends to any equipment required to support continuous glucose monitoring. However, the Ministry does support the payment of the associated sensors, which are an ongoing cost and therefore covered under DA.

The Ministry has searched for further policy, advice, and/or internal communications within scope of this aspect of your request (excluding the information previously linked) and have been unable to find any further documents.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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



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Magnus O'Neill

General Manager

Ministerial and Executive Services