



5 July 2023

Tēnā koe

On 15 June 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Under the Official Information Act I'd like to request the MSD Actuarial Valuation of the Benefit System Working-Age Adults for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.*

Up until 2017, the Ministry published a "Valuation of the Benefit System for Working-age Adults". The 2011 to 2016 reports are published here: [Actuarial reports of the Benefit System for Working-Age Adults](#). The 2017 version was published in 2018 under a slightly different name: [2017 Annual Report of the Benefit System for Working-Age Adults](#).

After 2017, the Ministry shifted its focus from an investment approach to social wellbeing. As a result, analysis pivoted away from reporting on the valuation of lifetime costs towards understanding people's future possible social outcomes e.g., estimating how long current clients will spend on benefits and in public housing. The estimated average future years on benefit was published in the 2018/19 Annual Report and has been updated each year in subsequent Annual Reports.

In the interest of being helpful and for your convenience, please find links and page references to the Ministry's Annual Reports from 2018/19 to the most recent one publicly available:

[2018/19 Annual Report](#) page 31  
[2019/20 Annual Report](#) page 77  
[2020/21 Annual Report](#) page 53  
[2021/22 Annual Report](#) page 47.

The following graph is re-produced from the 2021/22 Annual Report, for your assistance:

Impact indicator	Desired trend	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Average future years on benefit	↓	10.7 years	11.6 years	11.6 years	12.4 years	12.8 years

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response about the Ministry's Actuarial Valuation of the Benefit System Working-Age Adults, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Gareth Williams  
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