



14 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 25 January 2024, requesting information about financial assistance to assist ex-inmates into housing. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry provides case-by-case assistance to individuals and offers a range of financial assistance depending on a person's circumstances.

Where someone has been in prison or remand for 31 days or more, they may be eligible for a Steps to Freedom grant, which can help with initial costs associated with getting set up in the community, including housing.

More information about what assistance the Ministry provides to those recently released from prison can be found here: [Released from prison - Work and Income](#), and further information about the Steps to Freedom grant (including payment rates) can be found here: [Steps to Freedom Grant - Work and Income](#).

For more information about the financial assistance offered by the Ministry, please see the Work and Income website, here:

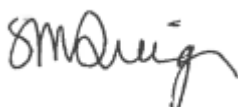
<https://workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html>.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services