



17 June 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2025 requesting information about the numbers of electricity and food assistance granted, declined and amount granted for May 2025.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing the following tables:

- **Table One:** Total value and number of grants and declines for food in May 2025, broken down by MSD region.
- **Table Two:** Total value and number of grants and declines for electricity assistance in May 2025, broken down by MSD region.

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

pp.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix One:

Table One: Total value and number of grants and declines for food in May 2025, broken down by MSD region.

Region	May 2025		
	Number of grants	Amount granted	Number of declines
Northland	1,077	\$115,457	75
Auckland Metro	6,591	\$793,244	267
Waikato	1,893	\$219,974	177
Taranaki	852	\$94,478	48
Bay of Plenty	1,788	\$200,355	84
East Coast	1,389	\$161,698	72
Central	786	\$86,335	60
Wellington	1,470	\$166,401	63
Nelson	555	\$61,543	36
Canterbury	1,605	\$168,504	96
Southern	789	\$80,766	69
Other	88,515	\$8,466,292	6,225
Total	107,310	\$10,615,047	7,272

Notes:

- Food grants are paid as Special Needs Grant (SNG).
- The number of grants is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one grant in each time period.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- The number of declines is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one decline in each time period.
- The number of declines is operational data therefore numbers may change depending on the date of extraction.
- Declined amount is not reportable because this information is not required to be entered by the frontline staff for declining a hardship application.
- The region 'Other' represents those service centres that do not represent a geographic location such as call centres and processing units.
- 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.

Table Two: Total value and number of grants and declines for electricity assistance in May 2025, broken down by MSD region.

Region	May 2025		
	Number of grants	Amount granted	Number of declines
Northland	27	\$23,135	6
Auckland Metro	375	\$194,164	24
Waikato	69	\$42,899	3
Taranaki	63	\$46,832	6
Bay of Plenty	108	\$67,289	6
East Coast	81	\$52,118	6
Central	57	\$32,267	6
Wellington	108	\$61,539	3
Nelson	27	\$15,653	3
Canterbury	132	\$71,417	9
Southern	48	\$29,798	9
Other	1347	\$553,276	234
Total	2,439	\$1,190,388	324

Notes:

- Electricity Assistance grants are paid as Advance Payment of Benefit (ADV) and Recoverable Assistance Payment (RAP).
- The number of grants is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one grant in each time period.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- The number of declines is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one decline in each time period.

- The number of declines is operational data therefore numbers may change depending on the date of extraction.
- Declined amount is not reportable because this information is not required to be entered by the frontline staff for declining a hardship application.
- The region 'Other' represents those service centres that do not represent a geographic location such as call centres and processing units.
- 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.