



19 May 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2025 requesting information about benefits and hardship grants over the past five years.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out below - some parts of your request are grouped together.

- *Over the past five years, including the year to date, how many new applications for Benefit or Hardship Assistance have been processed in total?*
- *Over the past five years (including the year to date), how many requests for Benefit or Hardship Assistance have been declined?*
- *If possible, please provide this data broken down by region.*

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

- **Table One:** The number of working-age main benefit applications processed (both granted and declined) from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2025, broken down by calendar year, benefit type, and MSD region.
- **Table Two:** The number of hardship applications processed (both granted and declined) from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2025, broken down by calendar year and MSD region.

Please note, this information is a count of grants and declines not clients. A client can have more than one grant or decline within the period.

- *How many of these requests came from Sole parents? Broken down by region, if possible.*

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing **Table Three** showing the number of hardship applications processed (both granted and declined) for Sole Parent Support recipients from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2025, broken down by calendar year and 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 regarding applications for financial assistance, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over the 'pp.' text.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services