



12 February 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2025, requesting a yearly breakdown of the number of dental assistance grants in the last five years.

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 the information requested in the attached **Appendix** a table providing: Number of clients, amount granted, and average amount granted per client for Dental Special Needs Grant and Advance Payment of Benefit 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2025, by financial year.

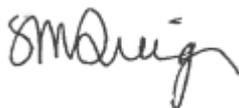
You find useful a link to the Ministry's Information Guide Special Needs Grants for dental treatment: www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/information-guide-for-dentists-special-needs-grants-for-dental-treatment.pdf. Please note that during the period requested, the Special Needs Grant was raised from \$300 to \$1,000 in December 2022.

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