



19 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 30 May 2026, requesting information regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) among Disability Support Services (DSS) clients.

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 separately below.

- *Does the DSS client administrative system record any secondary or co-occurring disabilities or diagnoses in addition to a client's principal disability?*
- *If secondary or co-occurring conditions are not recorded in the system, please simply confirm that, so that I understand the information does not exist rather than being withheld.*

For all individuals allocated support through a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination provider (NASC), their record in the DSS client database includes all reported disabilities. The database categorises disabilities as either "principal" or "non-principal"; as it does not use the terms "co-occurring" or "secondary".

A principal disability is one that qualifies the individual for DSS funding under a specific service line. A non-principal disability is one that either does not meet the eligibility criteria for DSS funding or is not relevant to the particular service line being allocated.

As an example, a person may have both a physical and an intellectual disability, and each may independently qualify them for DSS support as a principal disability. However, if the person receives DSS funding for mobility aids relating to their physical disability, the database record for that particular service line will identify the physical disability as the principal disability and the intellectual disability as non-principal.

- *If it does:*
 - *How many DSS clients in the 2023/24 financial year have both intellectual disability and autism (Autism Spectrum Disorder) recorded?*
 - *Is ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) recorded anywhere in the client record as a secondary or co-occurring condition? If so, how*

many clients with a principal disability of intellectual disability also have an ADHD notation?

Both Autism and ADHD are recorded disabilities in the DSS database and can be recorded on a person's record. Please refer to the below **Appendix** for the total number of people allocated DSS support in financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 who have both an intellectual disability and Autism recorded or have both an intellectual disability and ADHD recorded.

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

People Allocated Support with an Intellectual Disability and Autistic Spectrum Disorder/ADHD			
Financial Year	Category	Total People	Percentage
2023/24	Total People Allocated Support	54,063	100.00%
	People with an Intellectual Disability	32,009	59.21%
	People with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder	7,444	13.77%
	People with an Intellectual Disability and ADHD	2,205	4.08%
2024/25	Total People Allocated Support	56,582	100.00%
	People with an Intellectual Disability	32,812	57.99%
	People with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder	8,025	14.18%
	People with an Intellectual Disability and ADHD	2,294	4.05%