



26 May 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 4 May 2026, requesting information about the number of children dependent on benefits as at 31 December 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** with two sheets detailing the information about children dependent on Main Benefits and Unsupported Child Benefit (including Orphan's Benefit) as at the end of December 2025.

Each sheet contains three tables:

- **Table One:** Number of clients and children included on benefit, by benefit type
- **Table Two:** Number of children included on benefit, by benefit type and age of child
- **Table Three:** Number of children included on benefit by ethnicity, benefit type and age of child

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