



24 JUN 2020

The Lawyer
fyi-request-12899-ade53203@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe The Lawyer

On 26 May 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. The number of non-citizen visa holders receiving National Superannuation as at FY 2019*
- 2. The number of non-citizen visa holders receiving National Superannuation at the 10-year mark required to be living in NZ before receiving National Superannuation as at 31 March 2020*
- 3. A breakdown of those visa holders by category e.g. permanent resident, parental category visa, etc.*

In order to receive New Zealand Superannuation (NZS), a person needs to have lived in New Zealand for 10 years since the age of 20 years old. Additionally, at least five of those years must be when the person was over the age of 50 years old. A client may qualify for NZS with less than 10 years residence if they have migrated to New Zealand from a country that New Zealand has a reciprocal agreement with.

NZS is one of the few international pension schemes that is given to everyone who meets the residency requirements. The Veterans Pension (VP) has the same residency requirements as NZS. Please find further details regarding the eligibility criteria for NZS at the following link:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/superannuation-overview.html#null>.

When someone applies for NZS or VP, the Ministry records where that person was born. The Ministry does not record citizenship information, as it may vary if a non-New Zealand citizen gains citizenship after applying for NZS or VP. Clients are not required to report this change to the Ministry.

Furthermore, because the Ministry does not hold citizen status information for those receiving NZS or VP, the Ministry is also unable to report the number of non-citizen visa holders who applied in 2018 and 2019 after living in New Zealand for 10 years. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

In order to meet the intent of your request, the Ministry is providing you with data for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 showing the number of NZS or Veterans Pension grants to people who were born overseas, by the number of years since the client migrated to New Zealand. Please find this information in **Table One** on the following page.

Table One: The number of New Zealand Superannuation or Veterans Pension grants to people born overseas for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, by the number of years since the client migrated to New Zealand.

Number of years since the client migrated to New Zealand	Number of Grants
Less than 10 years	536
10 to 15 year	2,590
Over 15 years	12,378

Notes for Table One:

- This is the number of grants, not the number of clients.
- 'Years since the client migrated' means when the client first arrived in New Zealand.
- Clients born in the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau are automatically New Zealand citizens (by birth) and are therefore not included in the reporting of other superannuitants who are born overseas.
- Australian citizens are also excluded from the above report as they are automatically deemed to hold a New Zealand residence class visa.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response regarding non-New Zealand citizens receiving NZS, 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.

Nāku noa, nā


Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**