



Gregory Soar  
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26 MAY 2021

Tēnā koe Gregory Soar

On 20 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How much in total all payments of Temporary Additional Assistance and Special Benefit amounted to in the last financial year figures are available for please. Which year the figure applies to also.*

The Ministry provides financial assistance to assist people whose regular essential living costs cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. Prior to 1 April 2006, this assistance was in the form of Special Benefit (SPB). From 1 April 2006, SPB was replaced with Temporary Additional Support (TAS).

TAS is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. Further information about TAS is available on the Work and Income website here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/temporary-additional-support.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/temporary-additional-support.html).

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available. This information can be found under Benefit Fact Sheets releases on the Ministry's website at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html).

Please scroll down to the Excel tables heading and click on 'national level data tables - March 2021'. In the excel spreadsheet select 'Recipients of selected Supplementary Assistance, by recipient characteristics, last 5 years'.

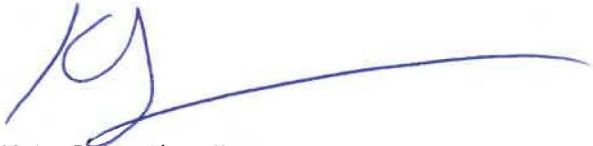
The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- 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.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding information about TAS and SPB benefit figures, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Kate Satterthwaite  
**General Manager, Ministerial & Executive Services**