



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

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Tina Marie Kahurangi

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Tēnā koe Tina Marie Kahurangi

Thank you for your emails dated 20 October and 18 November 2022 addressed to Edwin Wongsin, Manager, Client Service Operations, Papakura. Your emails have been referred to the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) Ministerial and Executive Services team for response. I am replying on behalf of the Chief Executive.

You have asked a number of questions which I will respond to in turn. The information you are seeking is, in general, publicly available.

Can you provide information where Ministry of social development aka MSD receive their payments from to issue to JOBSEEKERS?

Do not provide common information already in your data showing HOW regular payments/credit/ money are issued by msd; i would like to see where they actually come from?

I seek an OIA as to where msd receives their payment from to issue out?

Is it from a trust account?

PAYMENTS MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE, AND ONLY MSD KNOW WHERE AND HOW THEY ACCESS IT BEFORE ISSUING THESE PAYMENTS TO JOBSEEKERS?

Benefits paid under the Social Security Act 2018 are paid from bank accounts set up under the Public Finance Act 1989. Note that section 65V(1) of that Act states that "Money must not be paid out of a Crown Bank Account of a Departmental Bank Account, except in accordance with an appropriation, or other authority, by or under an Act." This limit in section 65V(1) applies to benefits paid under the Social Security Act 2018. The money does not come from a "trust".

Employees of the Ministry have obligations as public servants to give effect to the Social Security Act 2018 and other legislation which the Ministry administers. The relationship between Ministry staff and people seeking assistance is based on the legislation and is not a fiduciary relationship under a trust. In giving effect to the legislation it administers, the Ministry will attempt to assist applicants for benefit under the Social Security Act 2018 to the extent that is possible under that legislation. The Ministry endeavours to provide full and correct entitlement under the legislation for its clients.

Is the social security number issued by msd in the name of the JOBSEEKER?

Yes.

*[To apply for JOBSEEKERS payment you must provide identification.
What kind of identification does MSD require?*

An applicant for Jobseeker Support must provide supporting documents as part of the application process. Only certain types of documents can be accepted. An applicant needs to provide two forms of identification. They need to provide two Government-issued IDs or, if they don't have two Government-issued IDs, then they can provide one Government-issued ID and one other document that proves their identity.

Acceptable documents are as follows:

Government-issued ID

Two of the following documents that show the full legal name and date of birth. Documents must be current or, if expired, no more than two years old.

Born in New Zealand

- NZ birth certificate ([apply online for a birth certificate](#))
- NZ passport (current or expired)
- Driver licence, which is either:
 - photo licence
 - temporary paper driver licence
- firearms licence
- Steps to Freedom release form
- Oranga Tamariki issued Custody Order

Born overseas

- New Zealand passport
- passport from another country (current or expired) showing your residence class visa or permit
- citizenship certificate
- NZ Refugee Travel Document
- If you're from Australia, your Australian:
 - passport
 - birth certificate
 - proof of residence
- If you're from Cook Islands, Tokelau or Niue, your:
 - birth certificate
 - letter of confirmation
 - certificate of registration
 - certificate of naturalisation
- letter of confirmation of your residence class visa or permit from Immigration New Zealand

Other documents to prove identity

If you can't provide 2 types of Government-issued ID, you'll need to provide 1 Government-issued ID and 1 of the following:

- bank document
- a document from a health practitioner
- education organisation documents
- employment letter or payslips
- Inland Revenue letter
- insurance documents
- letter from prominent community member
- power account
- rates notice
- telecommunications account

- tenancy agreement
- Kiwi Access card (18+).

Non-government-issued documents that prove your identity must be no more than 6 months old.

Why do payments issued to JOBSEEKERS get taxed?

Unless expressly exempted or excluded by legislation, all income earned in New Zealand is treated equally and is subject to be taxed at the applicable rate. Jobseeker Support is a form of income from benefits and is therefore taxable income. Rates of benefits are set out in the Social Security Act 2018 and can be found here: www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0032/latest/DLM6784850.html.

Are JOBSEEKERS classed as employees? [we thought only employees get taxed?]


No, Jobseekers are not employees.

How does msd access credits to issue?

The Ministry does not issue credits.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information is helpful.

Nāku noa, nā

p.p. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services