



3 September 2025

M.R.M

fyi-request-31929-9d875fa7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe M.R.M

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2025, requesting information about the Unsupported Child's Benefit.

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.

- 1. A copy or copies of the legislation - laws and regulations - relevant to the Unsupported Child Benefit.*
- 2. A copy or copies of the policies, procedures, rules, guidelines, etc. - all non-laws and non-regulations requested above in other words - relevant to the Unsupported Child Benefit.*

The Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) is administered by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) in accordance with the Social Security Act 2018. Other legislation relevant to UCB includes the Social Security Regulations 2018 and Orphan's and Unsupported Child's Benefit (Additional Assistance) Programme. For further information, please see:

- Subpart 6 of the Social Security Act 2018:
www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0032/latest/LMS5958.html.
- The Social Security Regulations 2018:
www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0202/latest/LMS96210.html.
- Orphan's and Unsupported Child's Benefit (Additional Assistance) Programme: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/orphans-and-ucb-additional-assistance-programme/orphans-and-unsupported-child-s-benefit-additiona.html.

The guidance relevant to the administration of UCB is in Map, which is publicly available through the Work and Income website. The relevant legislation is referenced at the bottom of each Map page. Please see here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/unsupported-childs-benefit.html.

The UCB index page can be expanded to show all the pages within the UCB manual and can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/index.html.

Information about additional assistance specifically available to UCB carers can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit-products/index.html.

I have also attached the Case Manager guidelines for interviews for UCB, information and processes for Orphan's Benefit (OB) and UCB, and the Work and Income procedures for OB and UCB. This information is found on the Ministry's internal intranet. Some of the information in the Case Manager guidelines is considered out of scope of your request.

3. *A copy or copies of the processes that must be used to evaluate and approve or decline a second Unsupported Child Benefit application when the first Unsupported Child Benefit application was approved and payments made for more than 2 years, and the child left the applicant's home but returned more than 1 year later causing a stoppage of the payments to be requested by the applicant then a second application to be made and submitted to WINZ ... with all of the original application personal and other information remaining unchanged in the interim period other than the child's age. (What I am needing here is a copy or copies of a directive or other sort of instruction to WINZ staff how they are required to process a second Unsupported Child Benefit application when they already have all of the relevant information on record from a first Unsupported Child Benefit application).*

The Ministry has a duty to investigate and decide all applications made where it has the relevant information to do so. To apply for a benefit, clients are required to make an application and provide the information necessary for the Ministry to investigate and determine entitlement. This applies to all benefit applications, including when a client may have previously been in receipt of assistance.

More information about an application for a benefit can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/core-policy/requests-for-financial-assistance/application-for-benefit/guidelines-application-for-benefit.html.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written in a cursive style.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services