



19 NOV 2015

Mr Brett Cooper
fyi-request-3249-e1d21ba2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Cooper

On 15 October 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What percentage went into employment and what percentage was moved off the sole parent benefit due to eligibility changes?*

The Ministry publishes Benefit Factsheets quarterly which are available at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications/resources/statistics/benefit/index.html#Datatables6.

I refer you to these Factsheets in response to your question; in particular the *National level benefit grants and cancellations data tables* which provide a breakdown of the reasons for benefit cancellation for the last two quarters. Please note that 'S' in these tables represents a suppressed cell to protect client privacy, due to the low numbers that are represented.

Key facts for the September 2015 quarter, including the number of Sole Parent Support recipients and annual percentage change, are located online at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/post-sep-2013/all-main-benefits/september-2015-quarter.html.

I can advise that a client's eligibility to the Sole Parent Support benefit can change for a number of reasons including; no longer having dependent children in their care, their relationship status changing, moving into employment or their youngest dependent child turns 14 years.

When their circumstances change, we review their benefit entitlement and they may be transferred to another main benefit or, if their income meets a certain level, their benefit would be cancelled and we would assess non-beneficiary assistance for them.

Information about the eligibility criteria for Sole Parent Support is available at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/sole-parent-support/qualifications.html

I hope you find this information about the Sole Parent Support benefit helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Carl Crafar
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery