



1 DEC 2015

Mr Aaron Goodwin-O'Neill
fyi-request-3254-be76b434@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Goodwin-O'Neill

On 16 October 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Please provide the number of Marlborough region beneficiaries currently receiving financial assistance from MSD who have a "no abode" residential status.*
- *Further to my initial request above, is it possible to have gender specific numbers supplied, and, if available, information on how many of those with no current abode were in paid employment at any point within the 6 months prior to their seeking any kind of assistance from MSD?*

The Ministry is unable to report on the number of beneficiaries currently receiving financial assistance who have a "no abode" status specifically for the Marlborough region as this is not a standard reporting procedure. The Ministry reports on Work and Income sites by specific region, a breakdown of the regions can be found at the Work and Income website at the following link:

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/regions/>

However, the Ministry can advise that in the Nelson region a total of five working age beneficiaries were receiving a main benefit, who also had a 'no fixed abode' residential status as at the end of June 2015. You may also find it helpful to know that nationally, 179 working age beneficiaries had a no fixed abode residential as at the end of June 2015.

It is pertinent to note that main benefits exclude New Zealand Superannuation, Veterans Pension, Non-Beneficiary Assistance, Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child Benefit. The total of five beneficiaries refers to where a 'no fixed abode' is recorded as their residential address and does not necessarily mean that the beneficiary involved is homeless. A 'no fixed abode' residential status may also include clients who have not updated Work and Income of their current address.

Your request for information regarding gender and employment specific breakdowns is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. Due to the low number involved, releasing this information would potentially make each beneficiary identifiable. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

I hope you find this information regarding beneficiaries 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

p.p. Serelia Popescu

Carl Crafar
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery