



22 DEC 2015

Mr Shane Le Brun
Individual
Fyi-request-3431-85ce420f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Le Brun,

On 30 November 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information: The number of people who receive a Special Benefit, from 2005 through to 2015.

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

Special Benefit did not have a time limit or maximum amount payable. Payments could be made either with a person's benefit payment, weekly for those who were eligible and not in receipt of a main benefit or as a lump sum payment. Special Benefit continues to be payable to clients who were receiving it, or had applied for it, immediately before 1 April 2006. These clients will continue to receive Special Benefit until they no longer qualify.

TAS is paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. There will be some situations where people may not be able to improve their financial circumstances during this time. In these cases, a person may still qualify for TAS. During the period a person is in receipt of TAS, case managers assist them to take reasonable steps to reduce their costs or increase their income.

Recipients may submit subsequent applications to renew TAS due to a change in their circumstances and costs, or if there has been no change in their circumstances and they continue to require this assistance.

Further information about Special Benefit and TAS is available on Work and Income's website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-benefit/introduction.html and www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/introduction.html

The table below shows the number of people who received a Special Benefit from the end of June 2005 each year to the end of June 2015.

Clients who were in receipt of a Special Benefit as at the end of June 2005 each year to June 2015

Year	Special Benefit Recipients
Jun-05	53,255
Jun-06	44,778
Jun-07	26,085
Jun-08	18,048
Jun-09	13,715
Jun-10	10,889
Jun-11	8,589
Jun-12	7,044
Jun-13	5,719
Jun-14	4,666
Jun-15	3,901

Note: The data provided is the number of clients receiving a special benefit as at the end of June 2005 for each year up to June 2015.

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



PP Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery