



29 May 2023

Tina Marie Kahurangi  
[fyi-request-22695-b5d8506b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22695-b5d8506b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Tina Marie Kahurangi

Thank you for your email dated 5 May 2023 to the Ministry of Social Development requesting information about entitlement to New Zealand Superannuation (NZS). I am replying on behalf of the Chief Executive.

You may qualify for NZS if you:

- are aged 65 years or over
- either:
  - are a New Zealand citizen
  - are a permanent resident, or
  - hold a residence class visa
- are ordinarily resident in New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau when you apply, and
- have lived in New Zealand for at least 10 years since you turned 20. These 10 years must include 5 years since you turned 50. If you haven't lived in NZ the whole time, you may be able to use other countries to meet this criteria.

You can still be working when you apply for NZS. It is not dependent on your income or your assets. However, any income you do earn can affect other payments you receive from the Ministry of Social Development.

You can find more information here:  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/superannuation-overview.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/superannuation-overview.html).

You will be interested to know that there are upcoming changes to the residence criteria for NZS, which will take effect in July 2024. From July 2024, the residency requirements will gradually increase from 10 to 20 years since the age of 20. This still includes five years since the age of 50. More information about this change

can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/nz-super-and-veterans-pension-residency-changes-2024.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/nz-super-and-veterans-pension-residency-changes-2024.html).

People receiving NZS who need financial assistance, particularly when needing to meet an unexpected cost, can call the Senior Services Contact Centre on 0800 552 002. The Contact Centre is open between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturday. People can also test their eligibility for assistance online at this link: <https://check.msd.govt.nz/>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I wish you well.

Nāku noa, nā

*p.p.* 

Magnus O'Neill  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services