



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

13 July 2023

TLO

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Tēnā koe TLO

Thank you for your email dated 12 June 2023 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) regarding Child Support payments. I am replying on behalf of the Chief Executive.

From 1 July 2023, a number of changes were made around Child Support payments. Under the new Child Support (Pass On) Acts Amendment Act 2023, Child Support collected by Inland Revenue will be passed on directly to people on a sole parent rate of main benefit from 1 July 2023. The first payments will be passed on to parents from 22 August 2023. Before 1 July 2023, these Child Support payments were kept by the Government to offset the cost of sole parent benefits – a policy that dates back to 1936.

Following the changes, when a client receives Child Support payments from Inland Revenue (IR), IR will share most types of Child Support payment information with the Ministry through an Approved Information Sharing Agreement. Our systems will automatically treat these payments as income for the next month when working out the client's benefit and most other payments the client gets from us. This could take four or five weeks, depending on when the client receives their next Child Support payment from IR (as long as the paying parent has paid on time). The Ministry will take the total amount of Child Support that IR has told us about and average it out over the four or five week period. The client will then receive this average amount as a weekly payment.


You can find information about this on our website here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/on-a-benefit/tell-us/income/child-support.html#:~:text=The%20Government%20keeps%20the%20amount,passe%20on%20%2450%20to%20you.](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/on-a-benefit/tell-us/income/child-support.html#:~:text=The%20Government%20keeps%20the%20amount,passe%20on%20%2450%20to%20you.)

This new information sharing scheme with IR will make it easier for our clients. They will no longer have to tell us about most types of Child Support payments they get through IR. You can find more information about this here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2023/child-support-payment-changes.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2023/child-support-payment-changes.html).

Thank you again for writing.

Nāku noa, nā

*p.p.* 

Magnus O'Neill  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services