



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 3 OCT 2016

Sam Bird

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Dear Mr Bird

On 24 August 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding Project 300.

Project 300 was an employer focused trial aimed at increasing employment opportunities for people with a health condition or disability in the Canterbury region. As part of Project 300, the Ministry of Social Development worked with employers to increase their understanding of people's barriers to work, and provided supports to those employers to increase the likelihood of sustainable work outcomes.

By working closely with employers to create a more supportive work environment, Work and Income was able to help people with a health condition or disability into a range of employment opportunities that may not otherwise have been available.

As this was an employer focused trial, clients were not informed about Project 300. Clients with a health condition or disability that indicated they wanted to work were offered intensive case management as part of Work and Income's business as usual support, and referred to suitable employment opportunities.

Case management training specific to Project 300 was focused on the case management level system processes to track clients placed as part of the trial, as well as to identify the supports and services employers, case managers, employer-facing staff and clients may need to effectively participate, promote and utilise Project 300. This workshop was targeted at an initial small group of staff from the Canterbury region. On a more general basis, the Ministry is continuously providing support to up skill staff around supporting clients with barriers to return to employment.

For the sake of clarity, I have addressed each of your questions in turn.

- *The definitions of "people with health issues" and "disabled people", used by Project 300*

Disabled people include all people with an impairment or health condition who face barriers to employment. The term health condition is used to make it clear that mental health conditions and short term health conditions are included.

The Ministry records the types of health conditions or disabilities that a doctor has advised will impact on the client's ability to work, however the Ministry does not record whether it is a 'health condition' or a 'disability.' Instead, these are broken down by incapacity types and include psychological or psychiatric conditions,

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musculo-skeletal system disorders, nervous system disorders, cardio-vascular disorders, accident, cancer and congenital conditions, other disorders and conditions and an unspecified category.

- *The total number of "disabled people" who were registered with Project 300 from its inception through to April 2016*
- *The total number of "people with health issues" who were registered with Project 300 from its inception through to April 2016*

The qualifying criteria in relation to Project 300 were that the client had a health condition and/or disability that limited their capacity to work. Clients were not targeted based on specific health conditions or disabilities. The Ministry does not record whether it is a 'health condition' or a 'disability.' Instead these are broken down by incapacity types. Please refer to the response to question one.

- *The number of disabled people and people with health issues registered with Project 300 who were unemployed at the time of their registration with Project 300*

The term "Project 300" was used as an external term to identify a service the Ministry was providing. Project 300 involved engaging with clients to discuss opportunities to return to work and the support that would be provided. The eligibility criteria included anyone with a health condition, injury and/or disability on a benefit, who were looking for either part-time or full-time employment.

620 participants moved into full-time or part-time work, or study through Project 300. Of the 620 participants who moved into full-time or part-time work, or study; all were in receipt of a main benefit, however some of these clients may have already been in casual or part-time employment.

- *The number of people initially registered with Project 300 who as a result of Project 300 gained full-time employment*

Through Project 300, a total of 620 people secured either an employment or a training outcome. 584 people went into employment and 36 people went into training. Of the 584 people who went into employment, 505 went into full-time employment.

- *The number of people who registered with Project 300 who have a mental or psychiatric disability; and who gained full-time employment as a result of Project 300*

The Ministry records the types of health conditions or disabilities that a doctor has advised will impact on the client's ability to work, however the Ministry does not record whether it is a 'health condition' or a 'disability.' Instead, these are broken down by incapacity types and include psychological or psychiatric conditions, musculo-skeletal system disorders, nervous system disorders, cardio-vascular disorders, accident, cancer and congenital conditions, other disorders and conditions and an unspecified category.

The following table shows the employment and training outcomes for the 620 clients who secured employment or training through Project 300, and is broken down by incapacity group.

Incapacity	Employment	Training	Grand Total
Psychological or psychiatric conditions	342	26	368
Musculo-skeletal system disorder	59	1	60
Nervous system disorders	13	1	14
Cardiovascular disorders	26	n/a	26
Accident	43	2	45
Cancer and congenital conditions	12	n/a	12
Other disorders and conditions	81	6	87
Unspecified	8	n/a	8
Grand Total	584	36	620

- *The total number of people who at any time between 1 April 2015 and 1 April 2016 were registered with Project 300 as people with a disability or health issue*

The eligibility criterion for Project 300 was anyone with a health condition, injury and/or disability on a benefit, who was looking for either part time or full time employment.

There were a total of 620 participants who participated in Project 300 and moved into full-time or part-time work, or study.

- *The total sum of money spent on Project 300.*

The total amount spent on Project 300 for the 12 months from 13 April 2015 was \$374,000. This equates to an average spend of \$603 for the 620 people who obtained employment or entered into study. Please note that as each client received different types of supports and services, the individual cost for each client is not a realistic indication of what was spent for each client.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery