



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

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20 SEP 2012

Ms Heather Buchanan  
[fyi-request-511-1a614029@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-511-1a614029@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Buchanan

Thank you for your emails of 21 and 28 August 2012 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*"Yearly statistics for recipients of the Unemployment Benefit and Domestic Purposes Benefit, for 2007 through 2011, that I can read in tandem with the statistical reports you already share online.*

*In the statistical reports on the website, there are figures for the number of benefits cancelled in a given year, split out between those entering paid work and "other". Can I get numbers that split the "other" category, please? That is, each of a) transferring to another benefit, b) administrative (described on the site as used for benefit adjustment and reassessment), and c) the rest (on the site, example reasons are entering a relationship / leaving NZ / entering training).*

*I'd also like the numbers (each, per year) of UB and DPB recipients that at some point in that year declared other income (eg from part-time work), where income was insufficient to cancel their benefit entirely.*

*I'd like to get the figures as described in my original email as they apply to Sickness Beneficiaries as well."*

Please find attached two tables in response to your request.

Table one provides a breakdown of the "other" category by cancellations for Unemployment-related, Domestic Purposes-related and Sickness-related Benefits for working age clients (18-64 years). You will note that there is a category for "unspecified" and for "other" in the table provided. In some cases a client may not specify why their benefit is to be cancelled. "Other" includes reasons which do not encompass standard reporting categories, such as when a client qualifies for New Zealand Superannuation or if a child needs to be included on a client's benefit.

Table two provides a breakdown of income received by recipients of Unemployment-related, Domestic Purposes-related and Sickness-related Benefits between 2007 and 2012 as at 30 June each year. The amount a beneficiary can earn before their benefit is affected will depend on the type of benefit they receive. As income can fluctuate from week to week, the Ministry only reports this information at a point in time so that it is meaningful. You can find information on these cut out points on the Work and Income website at [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz).

I hope you find this information 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



Debbie Power  
Deputy Chief Executive Work and Income

Table one: Unemployment-related, Domestic Purposes-related and Sickness-related benefit by cancellation reason for working age clients (18-64 years) for financial years ending 30 June 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Year	Benefit Group	Change in Marital Status	Child Left Care/No longer dependent	Died	Excess Income/Assets	In Prison	Left New Zealand	Cancellation Reason				Obtained Work	Other	Transferred to another Benefit	Unspecified	Total
								Left/Ceased Course	Non-Payment > 8 Weeks	Non-Renewal of Declaration/Renewal	Non-Renewal of Declaration/Renewal					
2006/07	DPB related	8,763	1,849	123	504	349	1,589	2	322	1,296	16,223	2,488	5,775	0	39,273	
	SB related	1,103	24	361	845	876	839	10	21	1,27	8,619	16,732	17,697	0	47,254	
	UB related	1,728	17	106	877	1,142	2,078	44	945	937	40,101	15,649	21,367	0	83,991	
2007/08	DPB related	10,564	1,890	690	2,276	2,367	4,506	56	1,288	2,350	64,943	34,869	44,839	0	170,518	
	SB related	8,212	1,846	102	469	336	1,562	0	363	1,343	14,755	2,273	5,604	1	36,673	
	UB related	1,065	13	306	685	953	844	3	13	96	9,437	17,658	19,998	3	51,207	
2008/09	DPB related	9,289	1,805	473	1,595	1,948	3,544	50	1,081	24	28,043	31,419	43,715	5	149,320	
	SB related	1,210	1,934	111	438	427	1,784	1	380	1,124	11,706	2,281	6,227	0	34,566	
	UB related	881	43	291	659	1,474	813	7	14	60	7,666	15,938	19,445	0	47,620	
2009/10	DPB related	8,433	1,968	154	1,878	1,333	3,950	43	812	1,194	28,417	13,099	19,733	1	65,940	
	SB related	1,222	44	325	498	478	1,550	2	348	1,044	10,714	2,172	6,704	25	34,110	
	UB related	1,376	21	132	732	1,671	662	6	14	70	7,558	16,317	21,656	44	50,327	
2010/11	DPB related	11,031	2,053	612	2,474	3,971	5,412	56	1,509	1,125	71,296	40,912	49,946	143	190,542	
	SB related	8,316	49	298	601	545	1,916	0	343	1,145	12,834	2,241	6,850	0	36,895	
	UB related	1,209	27	121	881	1,773	914	3	79	440	9,539	15,577	20,554	0	50,721	
2011/12	DPB related	10,638	2,159	552	1,971	4,213	6,764	80	1,337	4,400	56,400	22,074	23,390	0	115,783	
	SB related	8,054	2,011	164	506	451	2,140	4	332	1,392	13,143	3,985	6,669	0	203,389	
	UB related	1,203	56	338	553	896	2,968	13	36	576	8,884	16,204	20,428	0	50,610	
Total		10,375	2,096	602	1,960	3,578	6,004	94	1,369	7,675	72,952	40,067	57,400	0	204,152	

Notes:  
 The table includes working age only (18-64)  
 DPB is Domestic Purposes Benefit  
 DPB related includes DPB-Caring for Sick or Infirm, DPB-Sole Parent, DPB-Woman Alone and Emergency Maintenance Allowance  
 SB related is Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship  
 UB related is Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship

Table two: Income declared by Unemployment-related, Domestic Purposes-related and Sickness-related benefit recipients as at 30 June 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012

As at June	Income	DPB related	SB related	UB related	Total
2007	No income	74,677	41,465	18,745	134,887
	>\$0 - \$80	7,315	2,634	1,526	11,475
	>\$80 - \$100	1,958	714	485	3,157
	>\$100 - \$180	5,737	1,557	1,136	8,430
	>\$180 - \$200	1,131	283	227	1,641
	>\$200 - \$300	3,757	948	806	5,511
	>\$300	1,892	462	234	2,588
2008	No income	76,205	40,346	14,944	131,495
	>\$0 - \$80	6,659	2,246	941	9,846
	>\$80 - \$100	1,741	609	286	2,636
	>\$100 - \$180	5,205	1,413	695	7,313
	>\$180 - \$200	1,070	273	151	1,494
	>\$200 - \$300	3,560	934	522	5,016
	>\$300	2,000	450	171	2,621
2009	No income	84,502	47,940	44,568	177,010
	>\$0 - \$80	6,627	2,476	1,845	10,948
	>\$80 - \$100	1,705	621	592	2,918
	>\$100 - \$180	5,015	1,449	1,641	8,105
	>\$180 - \$200	1,103	316	393	1,812
	>\$200 - \$300	3,417	992	1,173	5,582
	>\$300	2,031	558	643	3,232
2010	No income	91,295	51,624	54,036	196,955
	>\$0 - \$80	6,781	2,682	2,467	11,930
	>\$80 - \$100	1,722	600	727	3,049
	>\$100 - \$180	4,992	1,515	2,058	8,565
	>\$180 - \$200	1,110	325	426	1,861
	>\$200 - \$300	3,606	1,061	1,539	6,206
	>\$300	2,183	658	832	3,673
2011	No income	91,970	51,265	49,030	192,265
	>\$0 - \$80	6,159	2,619	2,222	11,000
	>\$80 - \$100	2,223	607	638	3,468
	>\$100 - \$180	5,108	1,452	1,882	8,442
	>\$180 - \$200	1,320	344	413	2,077
	>\$200 - \$300	4,009	1,073	1,367	6,449
	>\$300	2,640	649	712	4,001
2012	No income	90,317	52,356	42,693	185,366
	>\$0 - \$80	5,594	2,632	2,096	10,322
	>\$80 - \$100	2,627	630	604	3,861
	>\$100 - \$180	5,067	1,564	1,791	8,422
	>\$180 - \$200	1,215	329	354	1,898
	>\$200 - \$300	4,474	1,208	1,389	7,071
	>\$300	2,966	694	695	4,355

**Notes:**

The table includes working age only (18-64)

DPB is Domestic Purposes Benefit

DPB related includes DPB-Caring for Sick or Infirm, DPB-Sole Parent, DPB-Woman Alone and Emergency Maintenance Allowance

SB related is Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship

UB related is Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship