



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Māmari Stephens
fyi-request-8408-c2f586e4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Māmari Stephens

On 31 July 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *If the ethnic profile of those referred for debt recovery is proportionate to those who are in receipt of social assistance. For example, if (say) 46% of beneficiaries were in receipt of sole parent support in 2016/2017 were Māori, what percentage of SPS recipients with an overpayment raised in 2016/2017 were Māori? Is there a difference between those recipients with overpayments and those prosecuted for fraud, eg the percentage of SPS clients with a fraud prosecution commenced that year? What percentage of those under investigation for fraud were Māori?*
- *I would like the profile for one benefit (SPS) and I would like a collated figure, eg all benefit recipients (undergoing investigation for overpayment as a percentage of all benefit recipients, broken down also by ethnicity.*
- *The same kinds of figures for recoverable assistance loans (which can be claimed by non beneficiaries)*

The numbers for the following years: 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017.

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry has received your request, however requires more time to respond to this request. In accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Official Information Act, the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 14 September 2018.

The reason for the extension is that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

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

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz

I will respond to you sooner if I am able to.

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services