



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Families Package Monitoring Report - 2019

Supplementary information on selected payments

September 2019

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Disclaimer

The views and interpretations in this report are based on the data provided to us (at a specific point of time) from both MSD and Inland Revenue, and therefore may be subject to change due to revisions or new data becoming available.

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Introduction

The Families Package was introduced in 2018 to provide targeted assistance to improve incomes for low- and middle-income families with children. The package was implemented as part of the Government's focus on reducing child poverty, and ensuring children get the best start in life.

Different components of the package had different roles. These included:

- **boosting the incomes of low- and middle-income families** by increasing the Family Tax Credit and raising the Working for Families abatement threshold
- **helping families with costs in a child's early years** by introducing a Best Start tax credit (replacing, and expanding on, the Parental Tax Credit) and increasing paid parental leave to 26 weeks
- **helping older New Zealanders and people who receive a main benefit heat their homes** by introducing a Winter Energy Payment
- **increasing financial assistance for carers** by increasing the rate of the Orphan's Benefit, Unsupported Child's Benefit, and Foster Care Allowance
- **increasing Accommodation Supplement and Accommodation Benefit** by implementing changes that had been announced in the 2017 Budget.¹

The purpose of this supplementary report

This supplementary report provides additional series, and breakdowns of receipt for some of the Families Package components where this is possible. It is intended to provide additional insight into trends in receipt and expenditure.

¹ *Fact Sheet – Families Package*. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017-12/Families%20Package%20Factsheet.pdf>

Boosting incomes of low- and middle-income families

What is included here?

This section provides additional information on the Families Package changes and receipt and expenditure for the Minimum Family Tax Credit, and the In-work Tax Credit.

Receipt and expenditure for the Minimum Family Tax Credit

Minimum Family Tax Credit is a payment that aims to ensure families are getting a basic income above a set threshold where the parents are working the required number of hours for salary and wages.

From 1 April 2018, the Minimum Family Tax Credit threshold amount increased from \$23,816 to \$26,156. This was to ensure families with children remained better off working full-time than they would be receiving a main benefit after the introduction of the Winter Energy Payment.

There has been a very slight increase in the number of people receiving a weekly or fortnightly up-front Minimum Family Tax Credit (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of Minimum Family Tax Credit recipients paid weekly or fortnightly by Inland Revenue, end of the last three June months.

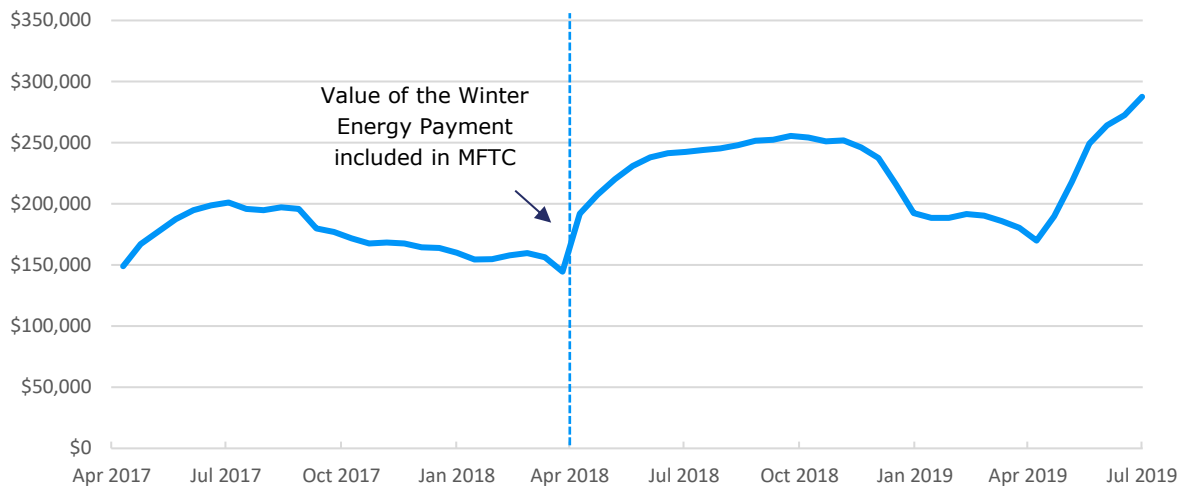


An increase is seen in the average weekly expenditure on Minimum Family Tax Credits during the final fortnights of June for the last three years (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Figure 2: Average weekly expenditure on Minimum Family Tax Credits in the last fortnight of June, last three years.



Figure 3: Weekly expenditure on Minimum Family Tax Credits, averaged across fortnights, from the start of April 2017 to the end of June 2019



This expenditure increase is down to two factors. The increase in the weekly average between the final fortnights of June 2017 and June 2018 is largely due to the increase in the Minimum Family Tax Credit in April 2018. The increase in the weekly average between the final fortnights of June 2018 to June 2019 is mainly down to the increase in numbers of recipients during this timeframe.

The average amount of Minimum Family Tax Credit a family received per week increased from \$89 at the end of June 2017 to \$111 in June 2018. It has increased slightly since then, to an average of \$115 per week during the last fortnight of June 2019. This may reflect more families needing larger top ups to reach the minimum, as well as reflecting inflation adjustments.

Receipt and expenditure for the In-work Tax Credit

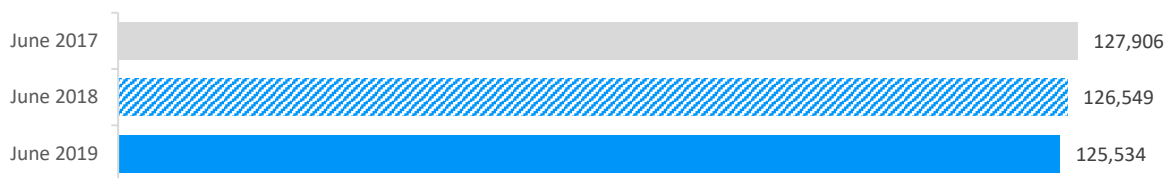
The In-work Tax Credit is for families in paid work. Couples need to work at least a combined 30 hours per week. Single parents need to work at least 20 hours per week. This payment is solely paid by Inland Revenue.

Working families with one, two or three dependent children may be eligible for up to \$72.50 a week. Working families with four or more dependent children may be eligible for an extra \$15 per child a week (on top of the \$72.50 a week).

For people not on a benefit, the In-work Tax Credit abates after other Working for Families payments have abated. This means the rate payable was influenced by the increases in the Family Tax Credit payment rates, as well as the Families Package Working for Families abatement changes.

Figure 4 below shows a gradual decrease in receipt across the time of analysis.

Figure 4: Number of people receiving the In-work Tax Credit during the final fortnight of June, last three years.



There was a small, yet clear increase in weekly expenditure at the July 2018 introduction of the changes (Figure 5 and Figure 6).

Figure 5: Weekly expenditure on the In-work Tax Credit, averaged across fortnights, from the start of April 2017 to the end of June 2019.

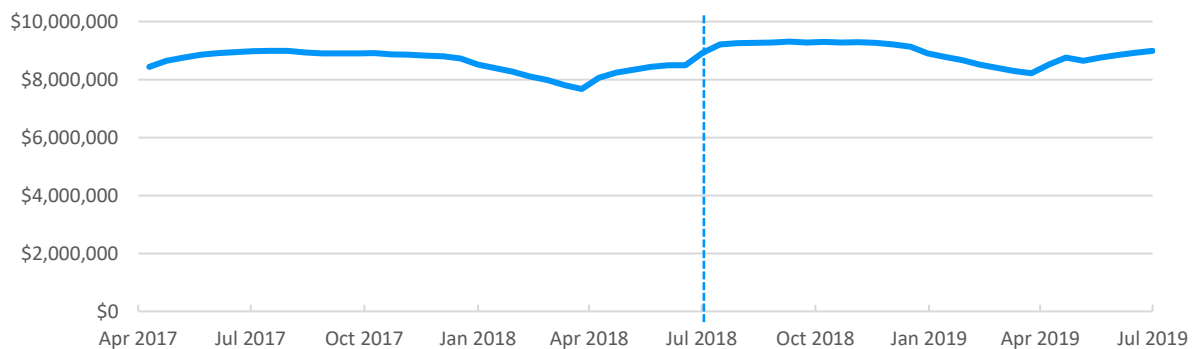
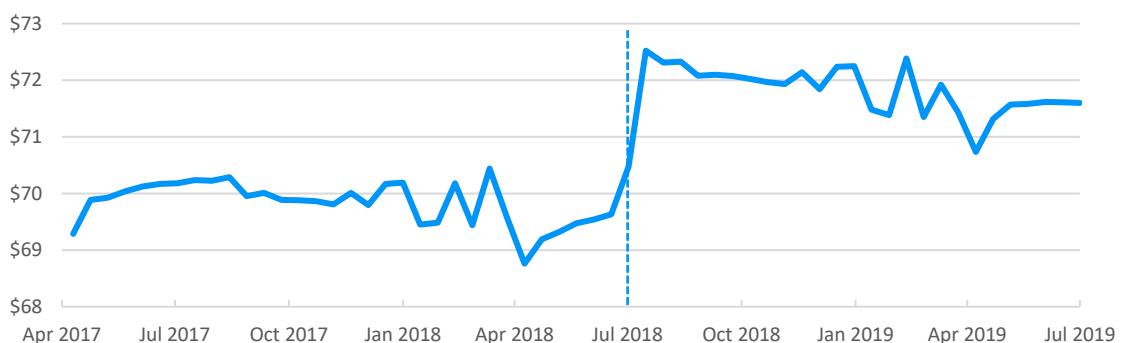


Figure 6: Average weekly amount of In-Work Tax Credit received per recipient, averaged across fortnights, from the start of April 2017 to the end of June 2019.



Helping older New Zealanders and people receiving a main benefit heat their homes

Winter Energy Payment

The Winter Energy Payment is a non-taxable, non-income tested benefit paid with the client's main benefit, New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension to help eligible clients meet their household heating costs during the winter months.

Single people without dependent children eligible for the Winter Energy Payment are paid \$20.46 a week. People who are married, in a civil union or a de facto relationship (with or without dependent children), and sole parents receive \$31.82 a week. There has been no adjustment to the payment rate since its introduction.

In 2018 payments were made from 1 July until 29 September. In 2019 and subsequent years, payments are made from 1 May until 1 October.

Due to the way MSD administers payments and sets its reporting periods, the first payment in 2018 is registered as taking place in the final reporting week of June 2018, which includes 1 July.

What is included here?

This provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for the Winter Energy Payment by the following:

- benefit group
- receipt of a health condition, disability or caring related payment
- payment rate
- family type
- age group
- ethnicity group.

For ease of use, overall trends in receipt are also included.

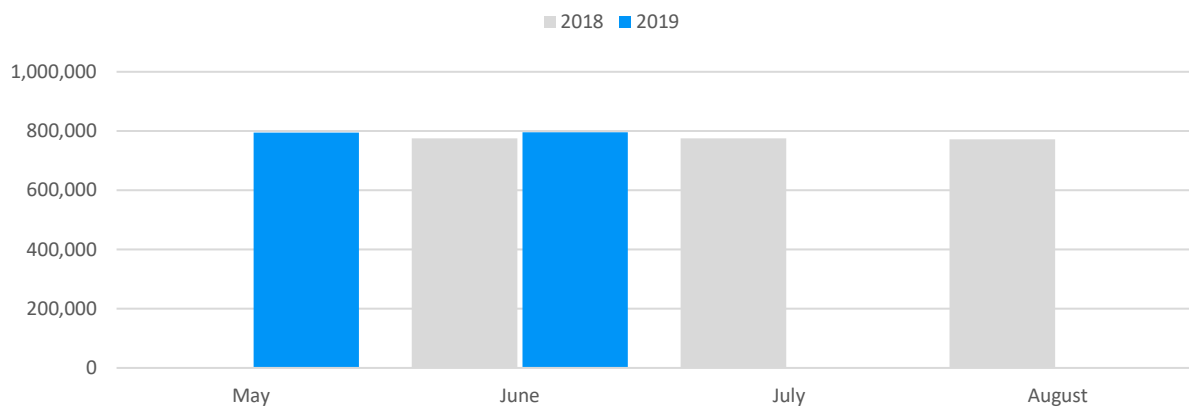
Receipt of the Winter Energy Payment

Overall

Nearly everyone on a main benefit or receiving a superannuation payment that meet the criteria for the Winter Energy Payment receive it, with approximately 774,000 recipients on average during the 2018 year.²

Figure 7 below shows that so far in 2019, the number of recipients of the Winter Energy Payment is higher than in 2018. Using the data available for this report, in the only month where we can directly compare receipt so far (June), there were 20,552 more recipients in 2019 compared to 2018.³

Figure 7: Winter Energy Payment receipt, 2018 and 2019.



Once we include the eligible partners of recipients, there are just under 1.07 million adults being helped by the Winter Energy Payment.⁴

Additionally, fewer than 1,000 potential recipients have chosen to opt out of receiving the payment.

² This figure does not include partners where the other partner is receiving the payment on their behalf (consistent with MSD's standard reporting).

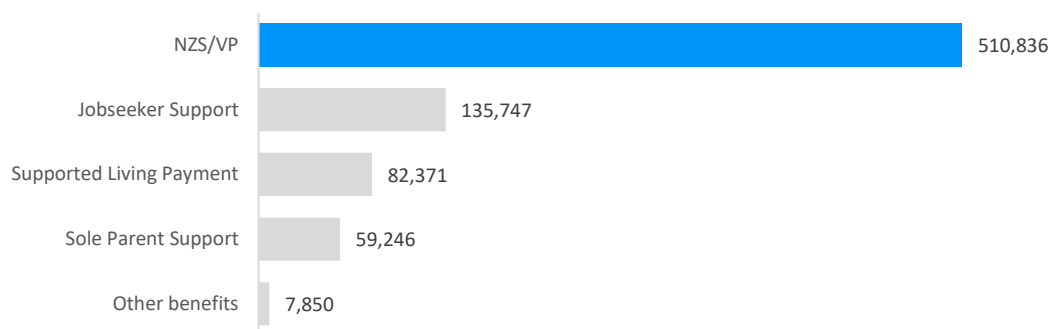
³ The reason why we can compare between June ends is due to the timing of when the pay cycle of the first week of the Winter Energy Payment started. For the 2018 implementation, this pay cycle started just before the start of July and included 1 July.

⁴ This calculation is based on the partnership status of recipients, and whether the recipients are getting paid the higher or lower payment rate. If they are partnered and receiving the lower rate, we assume that their partner is not eligible for the Winter Energy Payment, due to other circumstances (like being in hospital for an extended period of time).

Receipt by benefit group

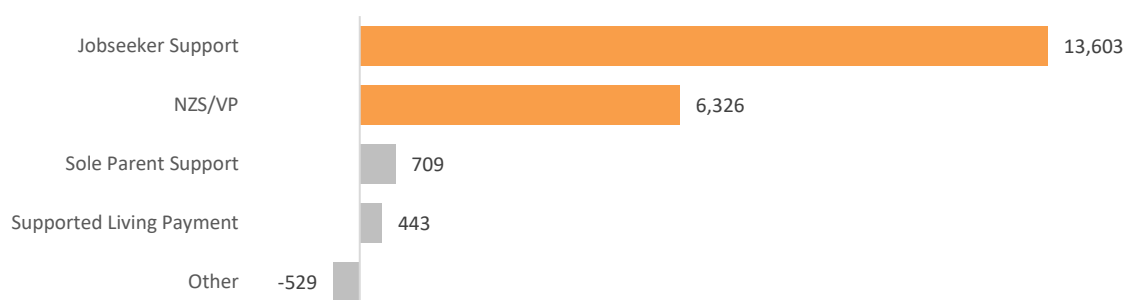
As at the end of June 2019, most Winter Energy Payment recipients receive New Zealand Superannuation or the Veteran's Pension (Figure 8). This is to be expected, as most recipients who receive a payment from MSD receive one of these payments.

Figure 8: Winter Energy Payment receipt as of the end of June 2019, by benefit group.



The increase between the end of June 2018 and June 2019 is predominantly down to the increased numbers of recipients on Jobseeker Support, or a superannuation payment (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by benefit group.

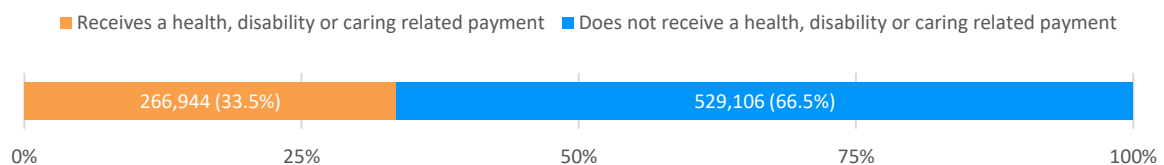


Receipt by whether receiving payments for health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities ⁵

As at the end of June 2019, most Winter Energy Payment recipients do not receive a payment related to having a health condition, disability, or caring for someone (Figure 10) (ie, they do not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance, or a Child Disability Allowance).

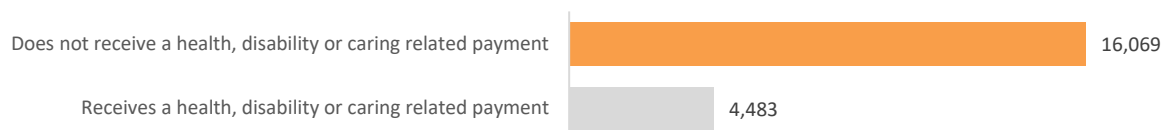
It is important to note that some clients who are counted in the category 'does not receive a health condition, disability or caring related payment' may still have a health condition, disability, or care for someone but not receive assistance from MSD in relation to this. Therefore, figures presented in this section are an undercount of the true population of MSD clients who have a health condition, disability, or care for someone.

Figure 10: Winter Energy Payment receipt as at the end of June 2019, by receipt of payments that indicate health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities.



Most of the increase in Winter Energy Payment receipt from June 2018 has come from benefit or superannuation recipients who do not receive a payment related to having a health condition, disability, or caring for someone (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by receipt of payments that indicate health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities.

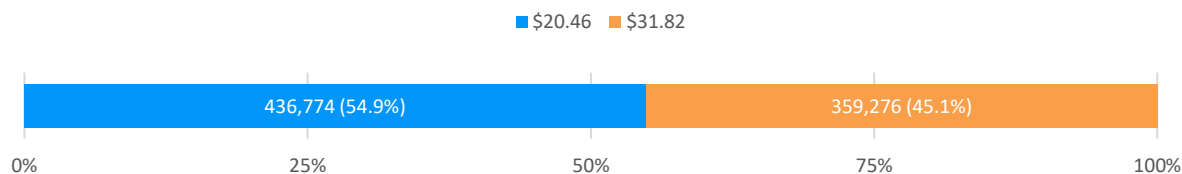


⁵ In this section payments are grouped based on if the recipient receives another payment from MSD relating to health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities for someone with a health condition or disability (ie, by whether or not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance or a Child Disability Allowance).

Receipt by rate

Figure 12 shows that as of the end of June 2019, 54.9 percent of payments are made at the \$20.46 rate.

Figure 12: Winter Energy Payment receipt as at the end of June 2019, by rate.



When measuring the increase of Winter Energy Payment receipt between 2018 and 2019, most of the increase has been in payments at the \$20.46 rate (Figure 13).

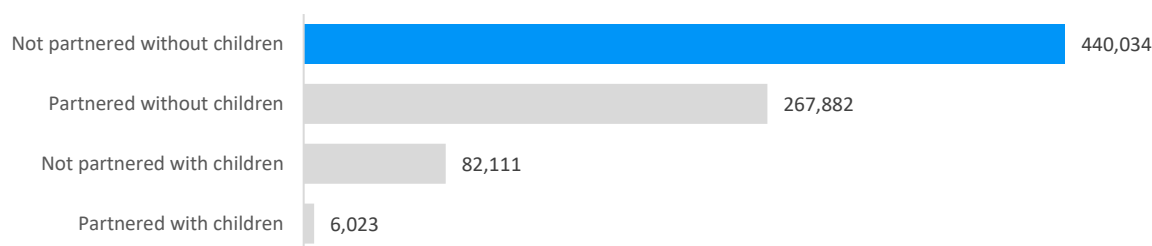
Figure 13: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by rate.



Receipt by family type ⁶

Most Winter Energy Payment recipients are not partnered and do not have dependent children (Figure 14). This is consistent with most Winter Energy Payment recipients receiving the \$20.46 rate.

Figure 14: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2019, by family type.

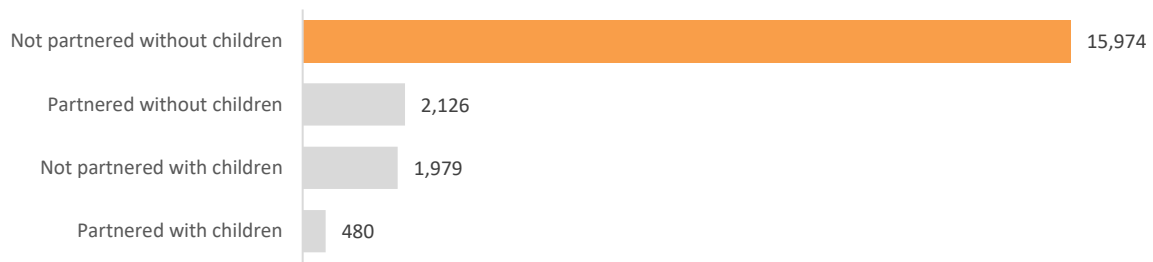


The slight differences between Figure 12 and Figure 14 are due to operational factors, that may result in some recipients being paid at a different rate compared to the rate their family circumstances would suggest (for example, if a partner lives in a rest home, the primary recipient will get paid at the \$20.46 rate).

Consistent with the change in Winter Energy Payment receipt by payment rate, Figure 15 (overleaf) shows that most of the change in receipt between June 2018 and June 2019 was largely due to an increase in the number of recipients that were not partnered and did not have dependent children.

⁶ The family types used in this section slightly differ from official reporting, as this looks at the partnership status of a recipient regardless of living arrangements, and not the benefit apportionment status

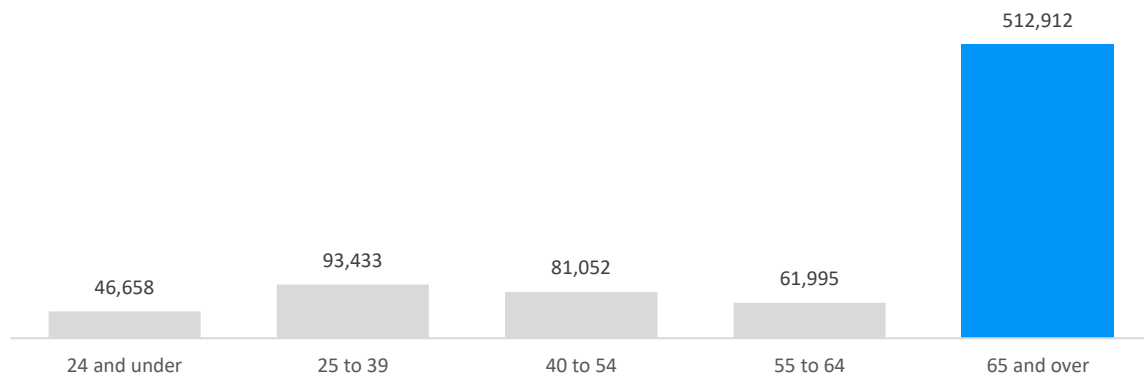
Figure 15: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by family type.⁷



Receipt by age group

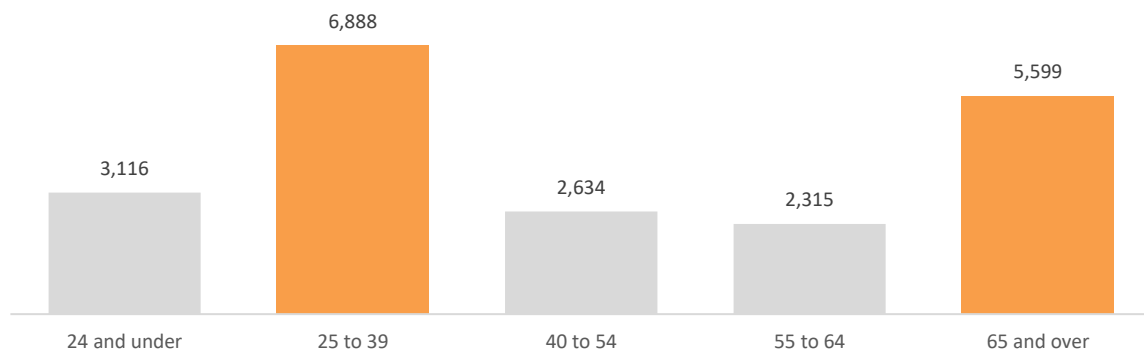
As expected, given the breakdown of main payment types, most Winter Energy Payment recipients are aged 65 years and over. Recipients aged under 65 are most likely to be aged between 25 to 39 years old, followed by 40 to 54 years old (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2019, by age group.



The increase in the number of Winter Energy Payment recipients between 2018 and 2019 has largely come from the 25 to 39 and 65+ age groups (Figure 17). This is consistent with the growth in receipt by payment (see Figure 9, page 10).

Figure 17: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by age group.

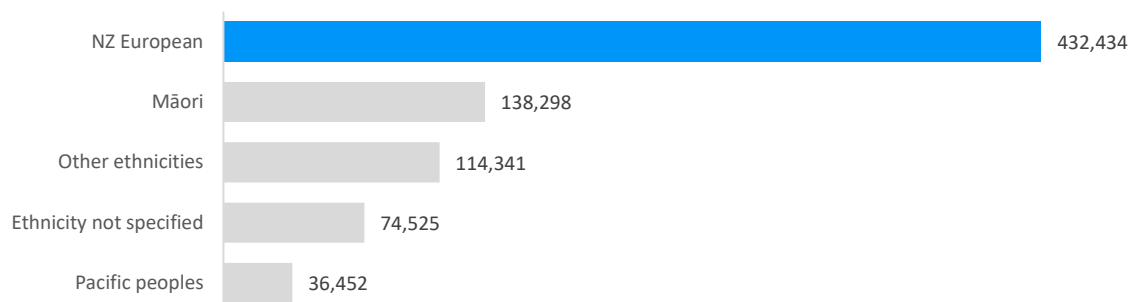


⁷ Changes in this graph do not add to 20,552, due to 7 records where we cannot accurately determine the partnership status of the client.

Receipt by ethnicity group ⁸

As at the end of June 2019, most Winter Energy Payment recipients identify as New Zealand European (432,434, or 54.3 percent), followed by Māori (138,298, or 17.4 percent), other ethnicities (114,341 or 14.4 percent) and Pacific peoples (36,452, or 4.6 percent) (Figure 18).

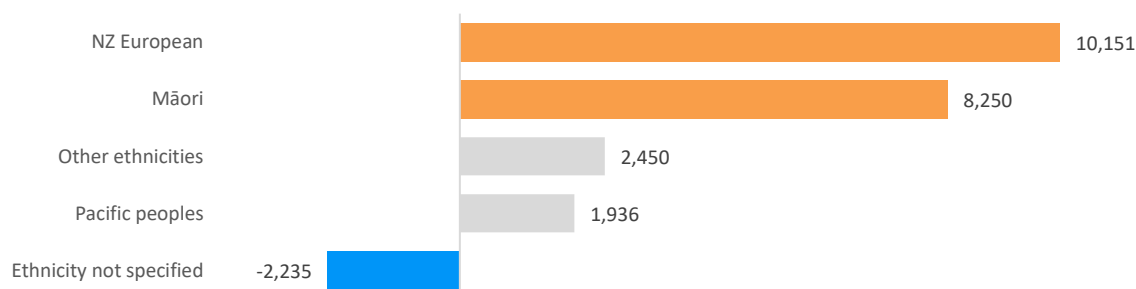
Figure 18: Winter Energy Payment receipt at the end of June 2019, by ethnicity group.



A large group of recipients (74,525, or 9.4 percent) have no recorded ethnicity data. This group largely consists of older superannuants who have little interaction with MSD, and therefore present few opportunities for MSD to update this information.

Looking at the change over the past year, most of the growth in Winter Energy Payment receipt is from people who identify as New Zealand European, or Māori (Figure 19). Additionally, there has been a decrease in the number of people that have no recorded ethnicity data.

Figure 19: Change in Winter Energy Payment receipt between June 2018 and 2019, by ethnicity group.



⁸ Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.

Increasing financial assistance for carers

Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit

Orphan's Benefit is a weekly payment which helps carers supporting a child or young person whose parents have died, can't be found, or can't look after them because they have a long-term health condition or incapacity.

Unsupported Child's Benefit is a weekly payment which helps carers supporting a child or young person whose parents can't care for them because of a family breakdown.

Both payments are non-taxable and not income-tested.

A Clothing Allowance was introduced in July 2018, which provides weekly financial assistance to all carers receiving Orphans Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit so that these carers can provide a reasonable range of clothing, a travel bag, and replacement school clothing for children in their care.

What is included here?

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for the Orphan's Benefit and the Unsupported Child's Benefit by the following:

- family type of the caregiver
- age group of the caregiver
- ethnicity group of the caregiver.

For ease of use, overall trends in receipt are also included.

Receipt of Orphan’s Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit

Overall

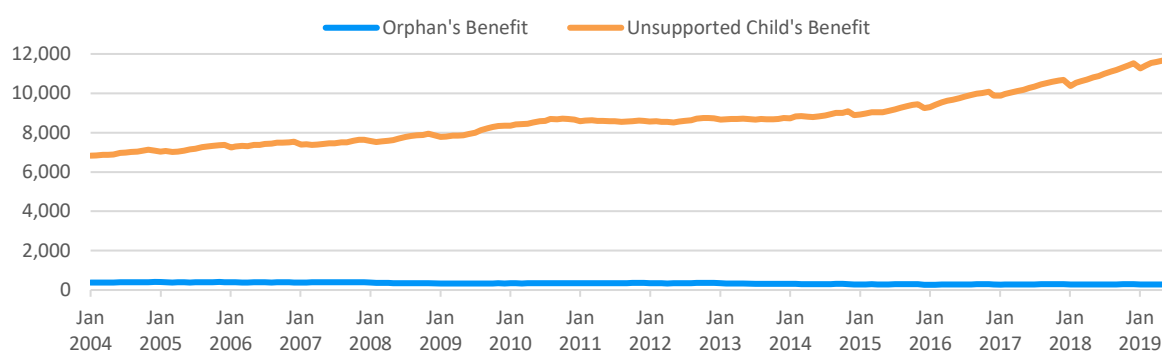
Table 1 below shows the number of carers receiving Orphan’s Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit at the end of the past three June months.

Table 1: Number of carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit, as at the end of June, last three years.

	End of June 2017	End of June 2018	End of June 2019
Orphan’s Benefit	276	271	280
Unsupported Child’s Benefit	10,001	10,631	11,490

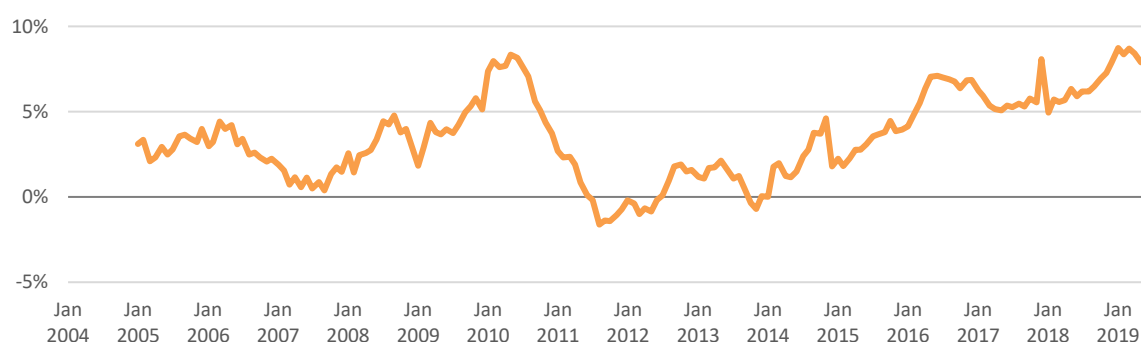
Figure 20 below shows that the number of carers receiving Orphan’s Benefit has been quite flat over time, if not gradually declining over time. The number of carers receiving Unsupported Child’s Benefit has been increasing, particularly so since 2016.

Figure 20: Number of carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit, monthly since 2004.



Based on year-on-year percentage change, the recent growth in carers receiving the Unsupported Child Benefit has picked up slightly from around mid-2018 (Figure 21). This coincides with the Families Package and Clothing Allowance rate changes. However, we cannot say whether it is the result of the Families Package. Other policy and operational changes that could affect demand for and delivery of the payment have also occurred.

Figure 21: Year-on-year percentage change in the number of Unsupported Child's Benefit carers, monthly since 2005.



Number of children included in payments

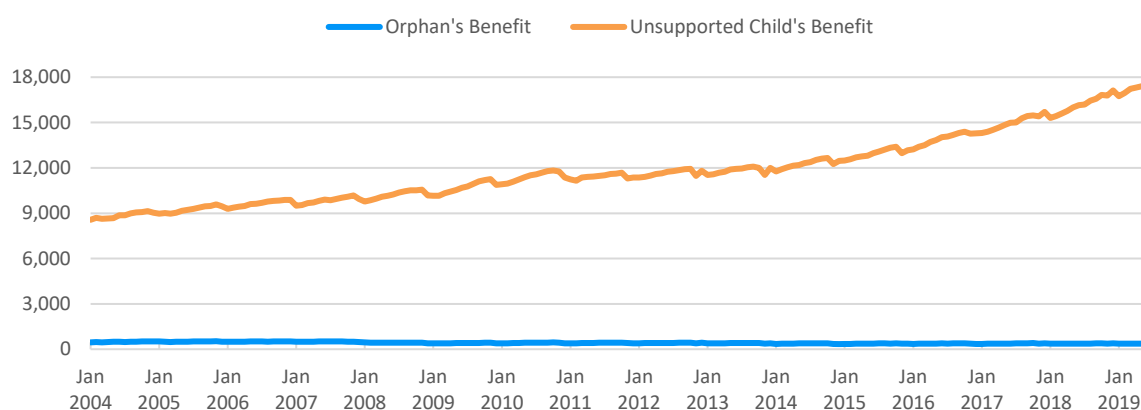
Table 2 below shows the number of children who are directly included within the Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Table 2: Number of children whose carers receive an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit payment, as at the end of June, last three years.

	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019
Orphan's Benefit	373	365	372
Unsupported Child's Benefit	14,993	16,157	17,553

The number of children covered directly by these payments has followed a similar trend to the number of carers (Figure 22). The seasonal dips happen every January and February during the summer school holidays. This mainly reflects end of year cancellations for children aged 16 to 18 who may cease to be dependent.

Figure 22: Number of children whose carers receive an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit payment, monthly since 2004.



Receipt by family type ⁹

As at the end of June 2019, a sizable number of carers who receive Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients are not partnered, with one dependent child (Table 3).

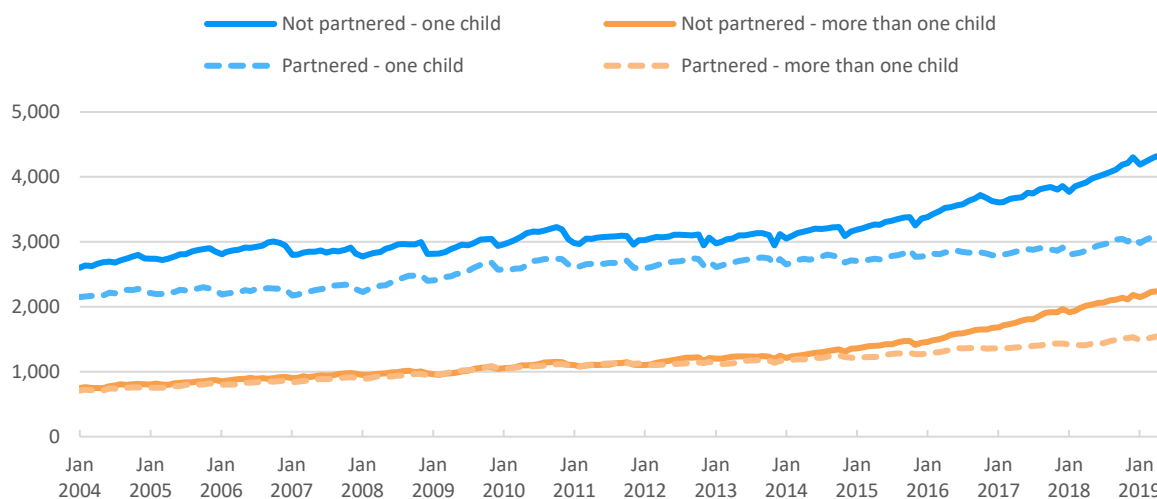
Table 3: Number of carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2019, by family type.

Family type	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Not partnered – one child	129 (46.1%)	4,374 (38.1%)
Not partnered – more than one child	40 (14.3%)	2,285 (19.9%)
Partnered – one child	84 (30.0%)	3,101 (27.0%)
Partnered – more than one child	21 (7.5%)	1,552 (13.5%)
Unknown family type	6 (2.1%)	178 (1.5%)
Total	280 (100.0%)	11,490 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

For carers receiving the Unsupported Child's Benefit, families that are classified as not partnered with one dependent child have historically been the largest group. However, in the past few years there has been noticeable growth in the number of families that are classified as not partnered with more than one dependent child (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Number of Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients, monthly since 2004, by family type.



⁹ The family types used in this section slightly differ from official reporting, as this looks at the partnership status of a recipient regardless of living arrangements, and not the benefit apportionment status

Receipt by age of recipient

Most carers who receive the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit are aged 40 and over (Table 4).

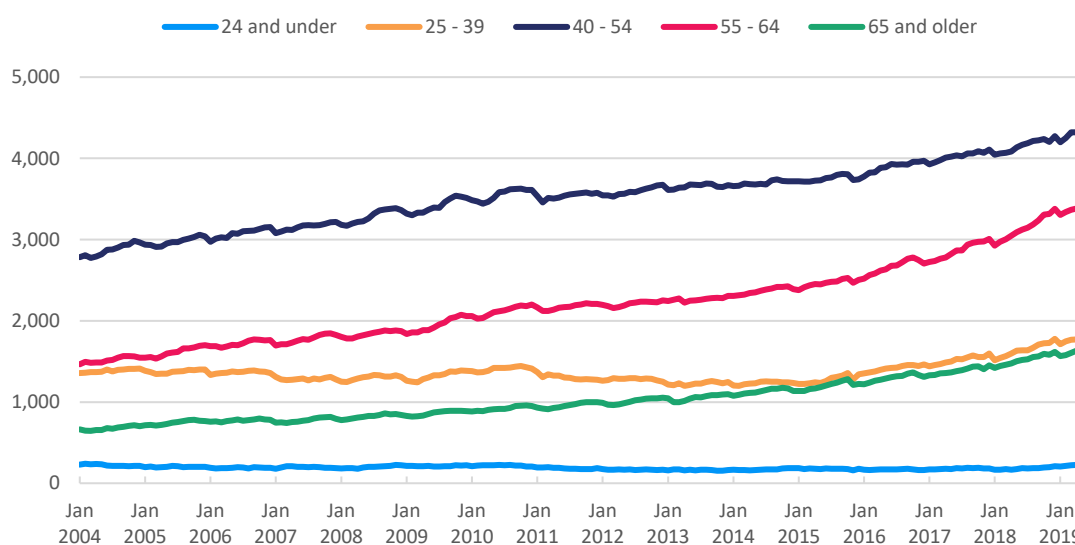
Table 4: Number of carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2019, by age group.

Age group	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
24 years old and under	15 (5.4%)	225 (2.0%)
25 to 39 years old	67 (23.9%)	1,777 (15.5%)
40 to 54 years old	86 (30.7%)	4,379 (38.1%)
55 to 64 years old	60 (21.4%)	3,436 (29.9%)
65 years and older	54 (19.3%)	1,673 (14.6%)
Total	280 (100.0%)	11,490 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

For carers receiving the Unsupported Child's Benefit, while the number of recipients across almost all age groups has increased over time, the current increase in numbers is being led by growth in recipients aged 55 to 64 (Figure 24). These trends predate the introduction of the Families Package.

Figure 24: Number of Unsupported Child's Benefit recipients, monthly since 2004, by age group.



Receipt by ethnicity group ¹⁰

As at the end of June 2019, many carers who receive either Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit identify as Māori (Table 5).

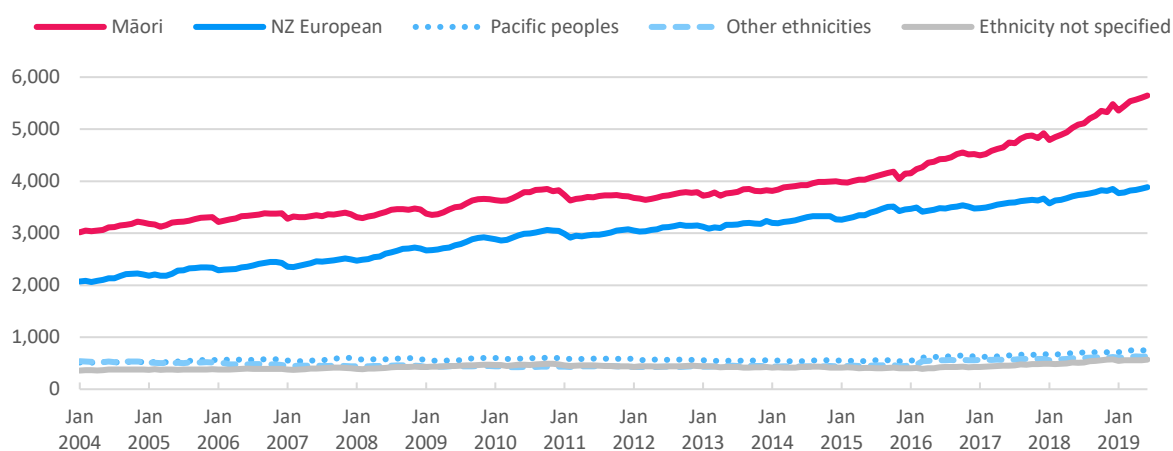
Table 5: Number of carers who receive the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of June 2019, by ethnicity group.

Ethnicity group	Orphan's Benefit	Unsupported Child's Benefit
Māori	125 (44.6%)	5,646 (49.1%)
New Zealand European	80 (28.6%)	3,884 (33.8%)
Pacific peoples	33 (11.8%)	759 (6.6%)
Other ethnicities	30 (10.7%)	632 (5.5%)
Ethnicity not specified	12 (4.3%)	569 (5.0%)
Total	280 (100.0%)	11,490 (100.0%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

Figure 25 below shows trends in Unsupported Child's Benefit receipt by ethnic group. Growth since the Families Package has been most rapid for Māori. It is not clear that this has any relationship to the Families Package because other changes that affected demand were occurring.

Figure 25: Number of carers receiving the Unsupported Child's benefit, monthly since 2004, by ethnicity group.



¹⁰ Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.

Increasing Accommodation Supplement and Accommodation Benefit

Accommodation Supplement

The Accommodation Supplement is a weekly payment to assist people with low incomes and at least moderate housing costs with their rent, board, or the cost of owning a home. It is not available to tenants in public housing and/or receiving an income-related rental subsidy, and it is not available to Student Allowance recipients. The number of people receiving an Accommodation Supplement tends to follow trends in broader benefit numbers.

What is included here?

This section provides supplementary breakdowns of receipt for Accommodation Supplement by the following:

- main benefit received
- receipt of a health condition, disability or caring related payment
- family type
- age group
- ethnicity group.

For ease of use, overall trends in receipt are also included.

Receipt of Accommodation Supplement

Overall

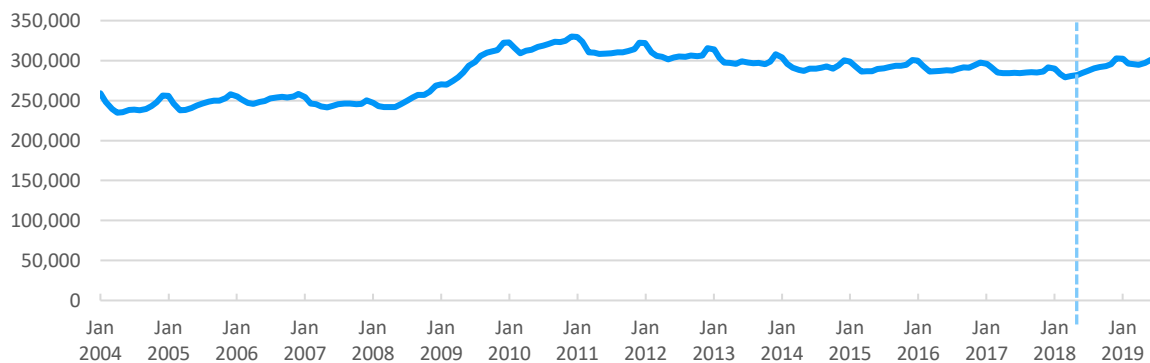
Figure 26 below shows the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients at the end of the past three June months.

Figure 26: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June, over the last three years.



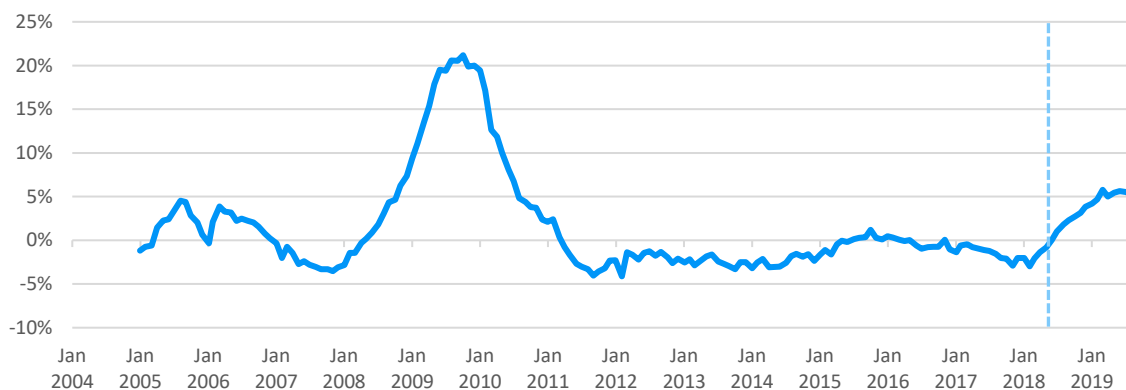
Figure 27 below shows that Accommodation Supplement figures were increasing slightly overall between 2004 and mid-2008, before increasing sharply during late 2008 and through 2009 during the Global Financial Crisis. Accommodation Supplement numbers peaked in late 2010, before gradually declining until June 2018, and have since begun to increase.

Figure 27: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004.



Based on year-on-year percentage change, the current growth in Accommodation Supplement recipients is higher than during late 2005, and mid-2006, but not at levels seen during the global financial crisis (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Year-on-year percentage change in Accommodation Supplement numbers.



Receipt by main benefit received

In this section, benefits are grouped based on their primary function or cohort. This is to allow for comparisons between benefit groups in language that is consistent over time.

Table 6 shows the groupings and the benefits they relate to both before, and after Welfare Reform, which occurred in July 2013.

Table 6: Benefit groupings pre and post Welfare Reform.

Benefit grouping	Pre-Welfare Reform	Post Welfare Reform
Non-health condition or youth related main benefits	Unemployment Benefit, Emergency Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit: Emergency Maintenance Allowance/Sole Parent/Woman Alone, Widow's Benefit	Jobseeker Support (Work Ready), Emergency Benefit, Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Sole Parent Support
Health condition related main benefits	Invalid's Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit – Caring for Sick and Infirm, Sickness Benefit	Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability)
Superannuants	New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension	New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension
Youth and students	Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment, Unemployment Hardship Students	Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship
Not on a main benefit	Non-beneficiary	Non-beneficiary

Table 7 below shows that as at the end of June 2019, many Accommodation Supplement recipients are receiving a main benefit.

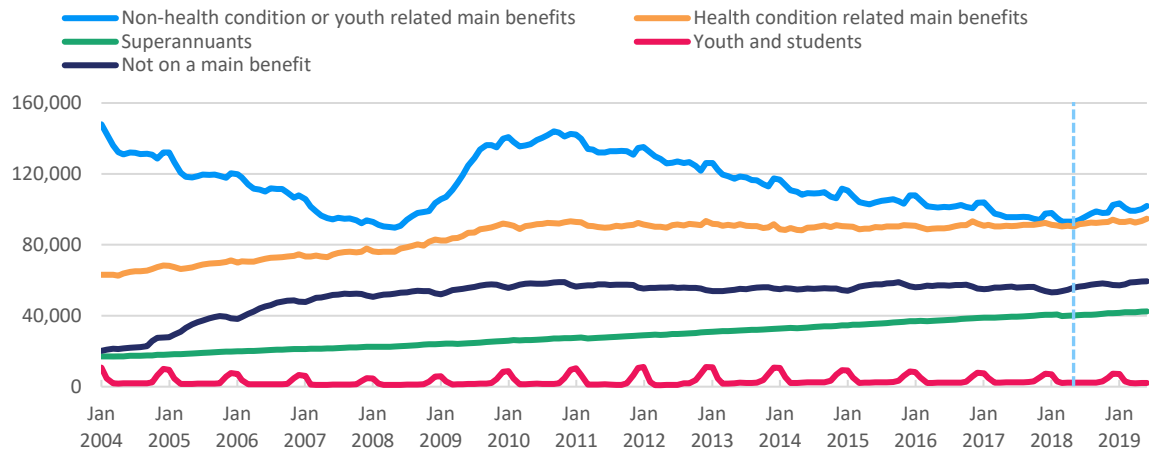
Table 7: Number of people receiving the Accommodation Supplement as at the end of June 2019, by benefit grouping.

Benefit grouping	Number as at the end of June 2019
Non-health condition or youth related main benefits	101,998 (33.9%)
Health condition related main benefits	94,728 (31.5%)
Not on a main benefit	59,423 (19.8%)
Superannuants	42,437 (14.1%)
Youth and students	2,155 (0.7%)
Total	300,741 (100%)

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

Looking at the long-term trends, people who were not receiving a benefit based on a health condition, or being a youth, have made up most of receipt (Figure 29). However, over time, the proportion of Accommodation Supplement recipients who receive a benefit for a health condition or disability has increased. Additionally, the number of superannuants who are receiving Accommodation Supplement has been steadily growing.

Figure 29: Number of people receiving Accommodation Supplement, monthly since 2004, by benefit grouping.

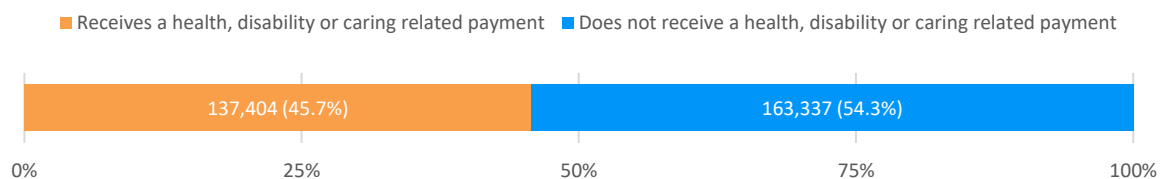


Receipt by payments for health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities ¹¹

As at the end of June 2019, 45.7 percent of Accommodation Supplement recipients receive a payment from MSD relating to having, or caring for someone with, health conditions or disabilities (Figure 30).

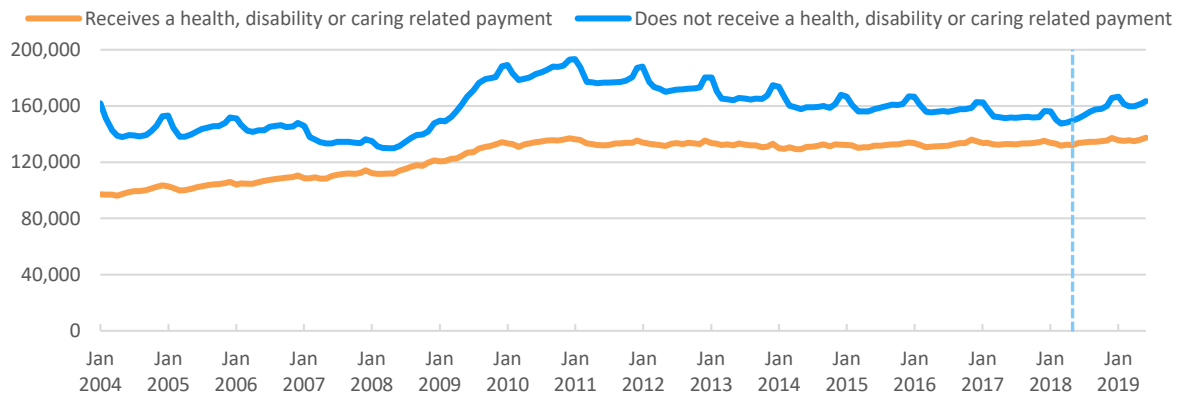
As noted, some clients who are counted in the category 'does not receive a health condition, disability or caring related payment' may have a health condition, disability, or care for someone but not receive assistance from MSD in relation to this. Therefore, figures presented in this section are an undercount of the true population of MSD clients who have a health condition, disability, or care for someone.

Figure 30: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as of the end of June 2019, by health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities.



Growth since the Families Package has been most pronounced for recipients who do not also receive a health, disability or caring related payment (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities.

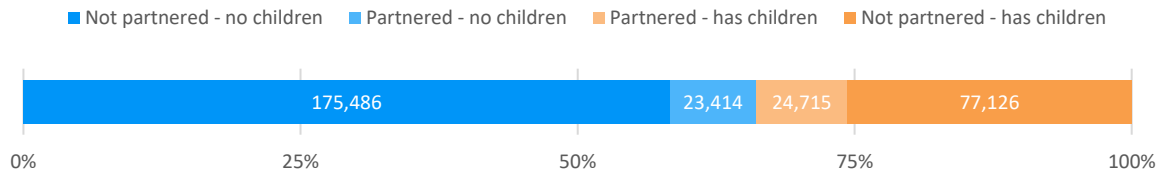


¹¹ In this section payments are grouped based on if the recipient receives another payment from MSD relating to health conditions, disabilities or caring responsibilities for someone with a health condition or disability (ie, by whether or not they receive Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Support (Health Condition or Disability), a Disability Allowance or a Child Disability Allowance).

Receipt by family type ¹²

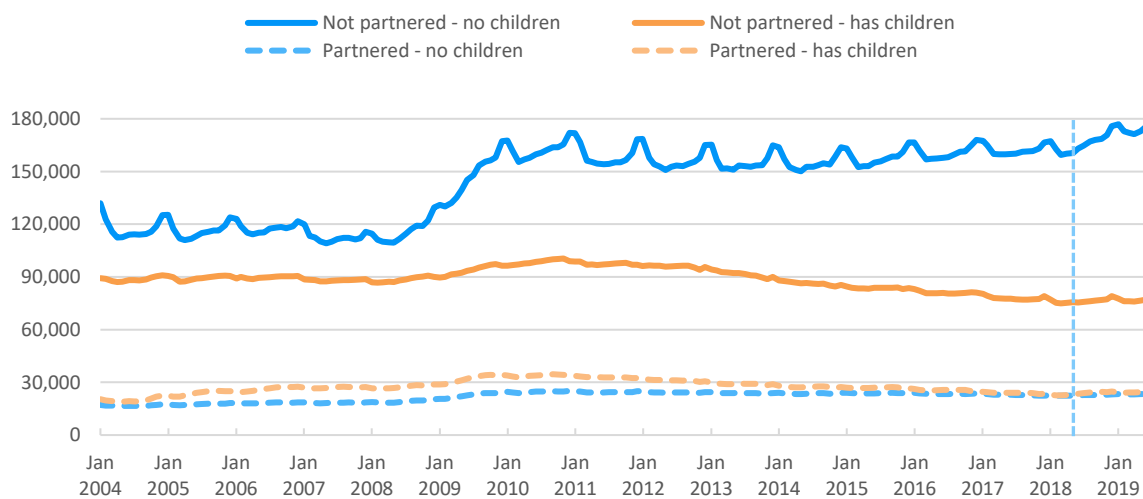
As of the end of June 2019, the largest group of Accommodation Supplement recipients were not in a partnership and did not have any dependent children (Figure 32). This was followed by a large group of sole parents.

Figure 32: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2019, by family type.



Over time, the proportion of recipients who are not partnered and have no dependent children has been increasing. This group has also been the main source of growth in Accommodation Supplement receipt over the past year (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by family type.

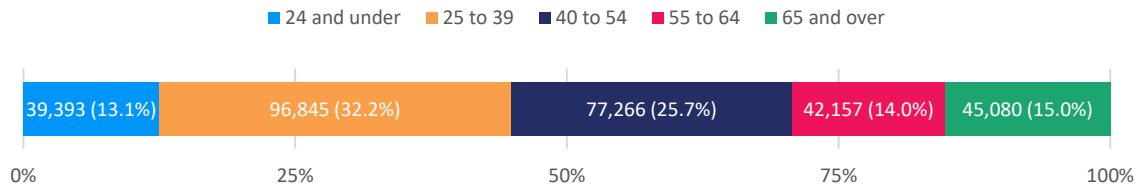


¹² The family types used in this section slightly differ from official reporting, as this looks at the partnership status of a recipient regardless of living arrangements, and not the benefit apportionment status

Receipt by age group

As of the end of June 2019, people aged 25 to 39 make up the largest group of Accommodation Supplement recipients, followed by those aged 40 to 54 years old (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2019, by age group.

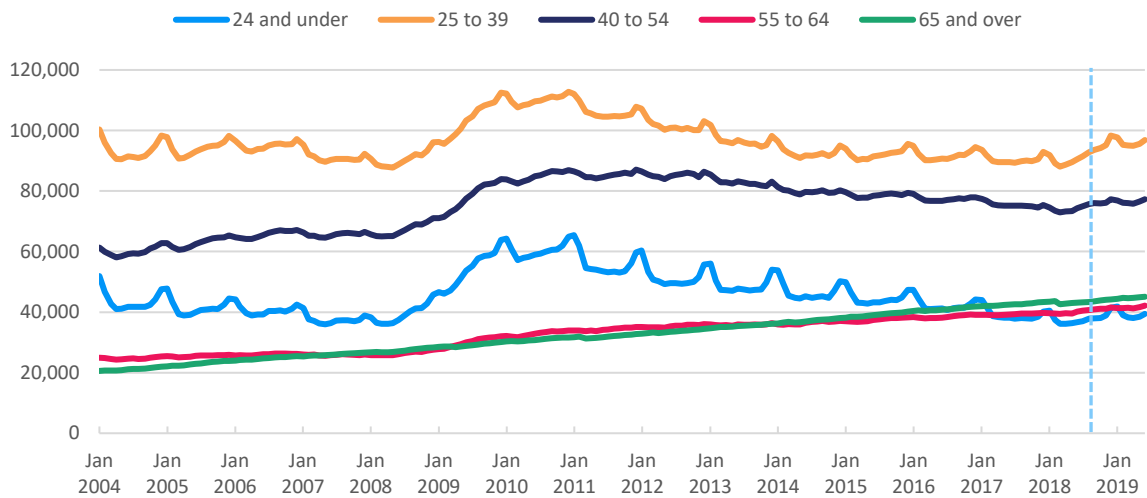


Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

The picture of receipt by age group has evolved over time. Figure 35 shows that the number of recipients aged 55 to 64 and over 65 has been continuously growing since 2004.

Other age groupings have recently started to see increases of receipt, which is consistent with the overall trend around increased Jobseeker Support receipt.

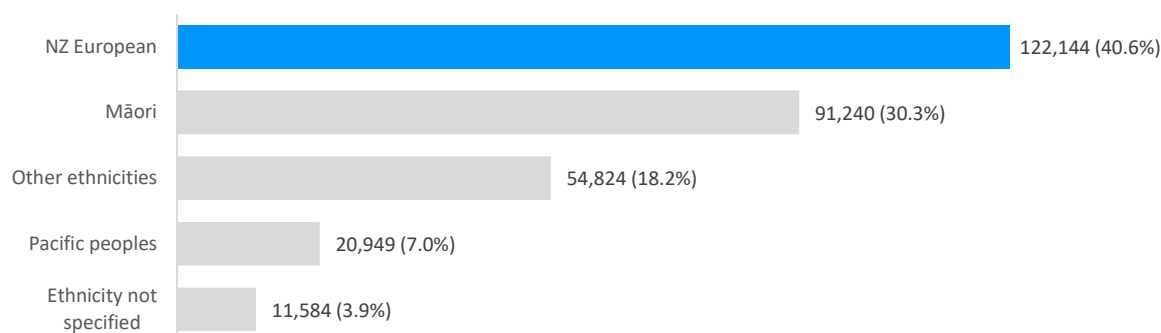
Figure 35: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by age group.



Receipt by ethnicity group ¹³

As at the end of June 2019, many Accommodation Supplement recipients identify as New Zealand European, followed by Māori (Figure 36).

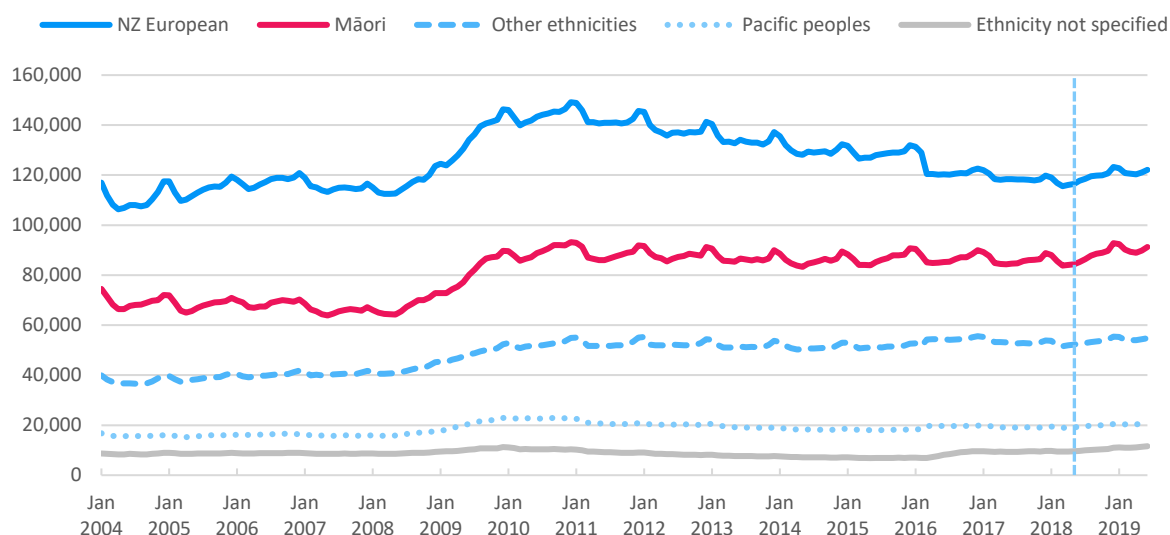
Figure 36: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of June 2019, by ethnicity group.



Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

The number of Māori receiving the Accommodation Supplement since the Global Financial Crisis has remained relatively stable, while the numbers of New Zealand Europeans receiving the Accommodation Supplement has decreased over time (Figure 37). The recent increase in receipt has occurred for all ethnic groups and is most rapid for Māori.

Figure 37: Number of Accommodation Supplement recipients, monthly since 2004, by ethnicity group.



¹³ Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.