

02 June 2021



Dear 

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), received on 5 May 2021. You requested the following:

Have there been any reports/analysis done on the Best Start payment including:

- *any breakdown of the numbers applying for / receiving it by income bands*
- *total statistics on uptake compared to estimates.*

The table below provides the number of families that received the Best Start payment in the 2019-20 tax year, broken down by income bands, and how much was spent on the payments in each band.

Income bands	Number of families	Best Start tax credits paid (\$000)
\$0 to \$10,000	2,320	4,776
\$10,001 to \$20,000	3,320	7,492
\$20,001 to \$30,000	6,340	14,917
\$30,001 to \$40,000	3,950	8,283
\$40,001 to \$50,000	4,450	9,823
\$50,001 to \$60,000	4,870	10,887
\$60,001 to \$70,000	5,160	11,274
\$70,001 to \$80,000	5,260	10,907
\$80,001 to \$90,000	5,280	9,491
\$90,001 to \$100,000	5,040	7,273
over \$100000	28,020	34,833
Total	74,010	129,956

Note: Figures for the number of families have been rounded to the nearest 10 and may include families receiving Best Start for more than one child.

Tax credits paid have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

The data above does not capture families who only receive their Best Start payments through the Ministry of Social Development and do not receive any payments from Inland Revenue. Family incomes are calculated from the sum of annual taxable income from the principal carer and the partner (if any). This method does not take into account changes in relationship or entitlement during the year.

Ref: 21OIA1625

Before Best Start was introduced, it was estimated that around 65,000 new-borns per year would be eligible for the payments. Not all eligible families receive their payments, for example families receiving Paid Parental Leave cannot receive Best Start payments until their Paid Parental Leave ends.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gillies
Customer Segment Lead - Families

Updated data provided 25 June 2021

Income Bands	Number of families	Best Start tax credits paid (\$'000)
\$0 to \$10,000	2,290	4,664
\$10,001 to \$20,000	3,320	7,466
\$20,001 to \$30,000	6,370	14,975
\$30,001 to \$40,000	3,970	8,333
\$40,001 to \$50,000	4,480	9,921
\$50,001 to \$60,000	4,900	10,979
\$60,001 to \$70,000	5,190	11,352
\$70,001 to \$80,000	5,290	10,956
\$80,001 to \$90,000	5,310	9,542
\$90,001 to \$100,000	5,090	7,330
\$100,001 to \$110,000	4,680	6,145
\$110,001 to \$120,000	4,110	5,347
\$120,001 to \$130,000	3,520	4,385
\$130,001 to \$140,000	2,970	3,620
\$140,001 to \$150,000	2,320	2,773
\$150,001 to \$160,000	1,900	2,324
\$160,001 to \$170,000	1,490	1,809
\$170,001 to \$180,000	1,230	1,423
\$180,001 to \$190,000	920	1,054
\$190,001 to \$200,000	810	954
over \$200,000	4,440	5,480
Total	74,600	130,833