



3 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 2 September 2024. Your original request is outlined in the attached **Appendix A**.

On 3 September 2024, we contacted you to clarify your request. We advised you that when data is extracted from Inland Revenue systems, the information is gathered at a certain point in time and is not able to show a total across multiple periods. We suggested that items 5-7 of your request be amended to include certain points in time. We also sought clarification of item 6 of your request.

On 5 September 2024, you amended your request and confirmed the following:

- Your request relates to all liable parents who currently have ongoing child support and withdrew question two from your request.
- **Item three:** you confirmed that you are seeking information for liable parents in Australia who pay receiving carers that reside in New Zealand.
- **Items five to seven:** you requested the information to be provided for the following dates: 31 August 2023, 31 December 2023, 31 March 2024, 30 June 2024, 31 August 2024.
- **Item six:** you confirmed you are seeking information where there is a change to the formula assessment for any reason (administrative review, income changes, changes to proportion of care, etc.).
- **Item seven:** you clarified that you are seeking letters sent to Services Australia to remind them to collect payment for overdue balances.

### Information released

As at 31 August 2024, Inland Revenue collects child support for 101,215 receiving carers.

This includes parents receiving child support through voluntary agreement, which is an agreement between two parties for a specified amount.

The total number of receiving carers residing in New Zealand who receive child support payments from a liable parent residing in Australia is 3,768 (3.7%). Of these, a total of 1,292 are currently in arrears. The table on the following page provides a breakdown of the total by the dates you requested.

### Explanatory note

We have considered your reference to 'payments' to mean the amount that a liable parent is required to pay based on their assessment.

Inland Revenue does not communicate with Services Australia for all liable parents who reside in Australia. The total notices sent to Services Australia regarding a liable parent who is in arrears does therefore not include all parents residing in Australia who are in arrears.

Inland Revenue does not explicitly store gender information. Gender information is implied based on a customer's title. For the purposes of your request, the following titles are included for the percentage of paying parents who are men: Mr, Master, Sir, and Lord. Parents who have missing or gender-neutral titles are excluded (e.g., Dr, Rev, Mx).

**Item 5 – Liable parents residing in Australia whose payments are in arrears, and the receiving carer resides in New Zealand**

Date	Total
31/08/2023	1,351
31/12/2023	1,466
31/03/2024	1,438
30/06/2024	1,452
31/08/2024	1,292

**Item 6 – Liable parents that had an increase to their formula assessment, resulting from administrative review or any other change in circumstances**

Date	Monthly total
31/08/2023	64
31/12/2023	44
31/03/2024	23
30/06/2024	206
31/08/2024	62

**Item 7 – Total notices sent to Services Australia reminding them to collect payment for an overdue balance, including parents who may not have an ongoing child support liability**

Date	Monthly total of notices sent
31/08/2023	124
31/12/2023	89
31/03/2024	197
30/06/2024	171
31/07/2024 (August not held)	135

### Information refused

Inland Revenue does not hold information for liable parents that live in Australia whose child support payments are deducted from their income by Services Australia. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue, and we do not believe it is held by another agency.

As total notices sent to Services Australia for the month of August 2024 are not yet recorded in Inland Revenue systems, I must refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not yet held by Inland Revenue, and we do not believe it is held by another agency. We have instead provided you with the notices sent as at 31 July 2024.

### Right of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: [commissionerscorrespondence@ird.govt.nz](mailto:commissionerscorrespondence@ird.govt.nz).

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you choose to have an internal review, you can still ask the Ombudsman for a review.

### Publishing of OIA response

We intend to publish our response to your request on Inland Revenue's website ([www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)) as this information may be of interest to other members of the public. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the OIA's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of officials.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gillies

**Customer Segment Leader – Families**

## Appendix A

1. *How many parents are receiving child support via IRD in total?*
2. *How many parents are receiving child support via an overseas parent?*
3. *How many parents are receiving child support via Services Australia? I.e. with the paying parent having their child support taken via their paye to Services Australia.*
4. *How many of the paying parents using Services Australia are behind in their payments currently?*
5. *How many have been behind at some point in the past 12 months?*
6. *How many that have been behind have had a increase to their payments? i.e. the annual assessment was \$700 and then after an admin review, it changed to \$900*
7. *How many of the parents using Services Australia have had a notice via IRD to Services Australia to say that they are behind in payments in the past 12 months?*
8. *What percentage of paying parents based in Australia are men or identify as men?*