

PQ 24177 (2025) Number of hardship applications granted and declined for Food Grants and Electricity Assistance from 1 January 2024 to 30 April 2025 and number of Special Need Grants (SNG) hardship applications declined from 1 January 2021 to 30 April 2025.
Request number: BIIM-6009

Source: IAP Data Warehouse, prepared by Business Intelligence, Insights MSD Group, Ministry of Social Development

General Notes:

Included on this sheet:

PQ 24177 (2025): How many special needs grant have been declined in the past 5 years, broken down by quarter, gender, ethnicity, and reason for the decline if available?

Table 1: Number of Special Need Grants hardship applications declined from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2025.
by quarter, gender and total response ethnicity

General Notes:

The number of declines is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one decline in each time period.
The number of declines is operational data therefore numbers may change depending on the date of extraction.
Declined amount is not reportable because this information is not required to be entered by the frontline staff for declining a hardship application.
From 2 December 2019, The Ministry of Social Development has three options to record a client's or child's gender: Male, Female or Gender Diverse.
Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.
Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.
Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.
MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.
'Unknown' is where ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other' is where ethnicities fall outside the reported ethnicities.

Confidentiality Notes:

To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.
Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.

Gender / Total response ethnicity		March 2021	June 2021	September 2021	December 2021	March 2022	June 2022	September 2022	December 2022
Diverse	Māori	18	6	27	12	9	9	18	21
	European	12	12	21	15	9	9	21	24
	Pacific Peoples	6	3	12	3	3	6	9	12
	Asian	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	0
	MELAA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	3	3	3	0	3	3	3
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3
Female	Māori	6,846	5,946	7,212	4,899	4,398	3,942	4,233	4,680
	European	4,428	4,107	4,983	3,498	2,940	2,808	3,099	3,630
	Pacific Peoples	2,337	2,010	2,412	1,533	1,467	1,242	1,386	1,506
	Asian	348	291	354	288	249	219	255	294
	MELAA	129	111	174	132	105	93	99	132
	Other	162	186	228	171	132	132	168	177
	Unknown	372	306	387	291	258	255	267	282
Male	Māori	5,262	4,422	5,952	3,876	3,339	2,871	3,249	3,378
	European	3,690	3,501	4,362	2,994	2,547	2,382	2,640	2,964
	Pacific Peoples	1,629	1,356	1,677	1,029	957	855	1,029	1,071
	Asian	339	321	420	279	213	222	222	300
	MELAA	195	165	219	120	108	96	114	129
	Other	216	234	285	153	138	150	171	192
	Unknown	312	291	309	204	183	195	246	225
Total		22,989	20,241	25,212	17,049	14,916	13,398	14,937	16,479

Gender / Total response ethnicity		March 2023	June 2023	September 2023	December 2023	March 2024	June 2024	September 2024	December 2024
Diverse	Māori	12	21	21	27	48	27	45	51
	European	15	21	30	33	36	33	42	48
	Pacific Peoples	6	3	12	12	21	12	18	15
	Asian	0	0	3	3	3	0	3	6
	MELAA	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
	Other	0	3	6	3	3	6	3	6
	Unknown	0	0	3	3	6	3	3	6
Female	Māori	5,088	4,401	5,046	6,750	7,242	7,065	7,926	9,147
	European	3,828	3,567	3,747	5,175	5,538	5,424	5,865	6,741
	Pacific Peoples	1,878	1,584	1,815	2,619	2,940	2,793	3,093	3,375
	Asian	315	312	276	480	444	447	495	603
	MELAA	120	120	126	198	192	207	219	267
	Other	183	186	207	252	243	291	345	372
	Unknown	342	339	393	474	606	546	660	714
Male	Māori	3,594	3,462	3,840	4,881	5,352	5,241	6,108	6,759
	European	2,841	2,808	3,204	4,008	4,299	4,587	5,040	5,649
	Pacific Peoples	1,221	1,128	1,239	1,599	1,845	1,827	1,968	2,292
	Asian	318	306	294	420	408	447	528	561
	MELAA	138	132	144	216	201	243	270	300
	Other	165	177	219	306	309	294	366	492
	Unknown	291	303	312	381	450	453	573	597
Total		17,730	16,422	18,066	24,009	26,259	25,941	29,121	32,796

Gender / Total response ethnicity		March 2025
Diverse	Māori	42
	European	60
	Pacific Peoples	15
	Asian	3
	MELAA	3
	Other	6
	Unknown	6
Female	Māori	8,649
	European	6,285
	Pacific Peoples	3,306
	Asian	585
	MELAA	291
	Other	387
	Unknown	720
Male	Māori	6,273
	European	5,178
	Pacific Peoples	2,097
	Asian	456
	MELAA	318
	Other	402
	Unknown	549
Total		30,663

PQ 24177 (2025)

Table 2: Number of Special Need Grants hardship applications declined from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2025.
by quarter and decline reason

General Notes:
The number of declines is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one decline in each time period.
The number of declines is operational data therefore numbers may change depending on the date of extraction.
Declined amount is not reportable because this information is not required to be entered by the frontline staff for declining a hardship application.

Confidentiality Notes:
To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.
Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.

Decline Reason / Quarter Ending	March 2021	June 2021	September 2021	December 2021	March 2022	June 2022	September 2022	December 2022	March 2023	June 2023	September 2023	December 2023	March 2024	June 2024	September 2024	December 2024	March 2025
A Bond Of 4 Weeks' Rent Was Not Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
A Bond Refund Will Be Available To Cover This Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	21	15
A Previous Tenancy Costs Cover Is Still Active	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Already Had A Rent Arrears Payment In The Last 52 Weeks	66	63	60	33	54	36	30	36	60	96	135	144	141	132	180	162	150
Already Received Help For Same/Similar Need In The Past	3,582	2,898	3,075	2,061	2,265	1,734	1,722	1,815	2,322	1,917	2,049	2,403	2,463	2,313	2,352	2,280	2,085
Application Not Lodged Within 12 Months	6	3	6	3	6	6	3	3	6	3	6	9	6	9	6	6	3
Cash Assets/Income Exceed Limit	2,121	1,893	2,982	1,539	996	960	1,494	1,695	1,968	1,944	2,214	2,166	2,412	2,205	2,496	2,496	2,490
Circumstances Could Have Been Reasonably Foreseen	3,768	3,354	4,218	3,225	2,619	2,421	2,541	3,321	3,015	2,361	2,538	4,128	4,926	5,046	5,262	6,201	5,166
Cost Of Funeral- Unveiling Or Koha Must Be Met By Client	81	69	60	30	30	42	27	33	33	39	45	66	51	51	66	72	48
Did Not Participate In Budgeting	375	594	729	519	477	369	417	585	609	720	702	1,137	1,167	1,227	1,653	1,815	1,344
Does Not Meet All The Criteria (Rural Sector S/Down)	96	78	69	102	96	69	60	66	78	81	87	129	159	159	111	129	117
Lack Of Representation	1,344	1,461	2,094	1,185	951	1,119	1,296	1,362	1,296	1,335	1,446	2,229	2,781	2,808	2,538	2,538	2,472
Landlord Is Not Likely To Continue The Tenancy	24	6	12	3	3	3	3	6	24	33	45	42	42	39	39	45	63
More Than 1 Person Applied To Meet The Same Expense	24	12	9	12	12	3	6	6	12	15	9	12	6	9	12	6	6
No Dependent Children (Strike S/Down)	18	9	9	12	3	3	6	6	3	6	9	9	9	15	3	18	12
Not A Compulsory School Fee (E.G. School Camps Etc)	3	3	0	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3
Not A Long Term Patient (Re Establishment Costs)	3	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	3
Not A Qualifying Need	2,769	1,806	2,088	1,749	1,374	1,317	1,293	1,344	1,470	1,365	1,629	2,424	2,547	2,676	3,351	3,765	3,207
Not A Qualifying Relative (Funeral - Travel Costs)	18	15	12	9	3	6	9	9	6	9	21	30	24	27	30	27	24
Not A Signatory On The Tenancy Agreement	3	9	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	42	54	54	45	51	15	30	36
Not An Economic Purchase	192	159	174	126	126	87	114	117	120	147	168	267	231	291	324	300	315
Not An Emergency Situation	855	651	840	642	507	462	480	468	546	420	549	639	738	528	684	894	837
Not An Essential Need	471	321	357	285	249	207	216	267	285	204	285	426	414	456	702	792	684
Not Applicable	513	492	489	390	342	312	375	330	417	384	522	459	465	429	642	738	714
Not At Risk Of Losing The Tenancy	15	24	3	9	12	6	9	6	30	57	78	69	78	84	114	105	108
Not Likely To Sustain The Tenancy	24	24	15	12	3	6	12	9	66	207	246	228	273	291	324	396	468
Not Supported By Appropriate Agency (E.G. Woman's Refuge)	3	0	3	3	3	3	6	3	3	9	6	12	9	9	6	9	12
Outstanding Balance Exceeds 6 Week Limit	1,854	1,782	1,890	1,248	1,101	948	1,071	1,242	1,320	1,251	1,233	1,530	1,638	1,455	1,587	1,782	1,677
Partner Is Eligible For Stand-Down	60	48	60	33	42	30	30	27	42	51	90	75	63	54	72	78	81
Qualifies For A Non-Recoverable Sng	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	0	3	0	3
Qualifies For A Recoverable Assistance Payment	3	6	3	6	3	3	3	6	6	9	6	6	3	9	12	24	12
Qualifies For An Advance	6	6	3	12	9	9	6	3	6	9	6	6	3	6	3	12	12
Qualifies For Disability Allowance	6	18	9	12	6	12	12	3	6	9	3	6	12	9	18	12	12
Qualifies For Regional Health Area	6	6	6	3	6	3	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	6	12	6
Qualifies For Sp Bft/Tas	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
Reasonable Steps Have Not Been Taken To Find Alternative	3	3	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	3	0	3
Security Deposit - Claim Is Not Reasonable / Actual / For	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	135	150
Security Deposit - Client Does Not Agree To The Claim	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	3	6	45	6	12	18	75	9
Security Deposit - The Claim Form And/Or Invoice Provided	0	0	0	3	6	0	3	0	3	3	6	9	6	9	3	9	6
Security Deposit - The Pre-Approved Amount Has Already Be	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6	6	18	3	6	0	3	6
Sufficient Financial Resource	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	6	3	3	3	3	3
The Accommodation Is Not Likely To Be Retained	270	285	423	228	207	186	261	261	264	246	249	330	312	309	366	537	423
The Accommodation Supplier Does Not Require Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	81	99
The Claim For Costs Was Not Made Within 3 Months After Th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
The Claim Was Not Made Within 3 Months From The End Of Th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6
The Need Can Be Met In Another Way	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
The Required Supporting Evidence Has Not Been Provided	4,407	4,152	5,499	3,552	3,393	3,042	3,417	3,447	3,705	3,429	3,612	4,884	5,214	5,199	5,121	4,542	4,521
The Residency Criteria For This Grant Has Not Been Met	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	168	231
The Tenancy Is Not Likely To Be Obtained	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	30	18
The Tenancy Was Terminated More Than 24 Months After Star	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	18	24
There Is No Risk Of Losing The Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
There Is Not Difficulty With Obtaining Alternative Housin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	39	39
Two Previous Grants Of This Kind Have Already Been Approv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	45	111
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	24	30
You Are Currently On A 13-Week Non-Entitlement Period For	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
You Are On A Non-Entitlement For Emergency Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	30	45
You Declined Adequate Accommodation That Is Opted-In To T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	18
You Did Not Agree To Meet The Responsibilities Of This Gr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	6	3	3	9
You Do Not Agree That You Are Liable For The Costs Claime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	27	15	15
You Do Not Have An Immediate Need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	3
You Have Caused Or Contributed To Your Immediate Need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	363	429
Your Main Benefit Is Currently Reduced Or Suspended Under	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	402	1,674	2,130
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	162	147
Total	22,989	20,238	25,212	17,049	14,916	13,398	14,937	16,482	17,730	16,422	18,069	24,009	26,259	25,938	29,124	32,796	30,666