

WPQ 27973 (2026) Table: Number of completed investigation cases for Financial year 2016/2017 to 2020/2021, broken down by relationship cases (yes/no)

Financial Year	Relationship related cases (Yes/No)		Total completed investigation cases
	No	Yes	
2016/2017	2,244	2,610	4,854
2017/2018	2,016	2,739	4,755
2018/2019	861	897	1,761
2019/2020	675	414	1,089
2020/2021	450	204	654

Notes:

- The Ministry's financial year commences on the 1st of July and ends at the 30th of June.
- Internal Fraud cases and COVID related cases have been excluded
- A benefit fraud case may involve more than one person.
- This data includes completed Investigation cases by Client Service Integrity.
- From F2018/F2019, the Ministry introduced its three-tier response model to allegations of fraud, made up of Early Intervention, Facilitation, and Investigation – a greater proportion of cases are now responded to without investigation, which reflects the reduction in investigation cases completed.
- Relationship cases refer to cases with a line of inquiry of 'Marriage Type Relationship - Defacto' and/or 'Marriage Type Relationship - Married'.
- A case may have multiple lines of inquiries.
- 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.
- 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.