

Key Facts

FEBRUARY 2019

Each year over 630,000 people receive payments from the welfare system. This excludes superannuitants and those in receipt of student loans and allowances.

345,900 families receive a Working for Families tax credit. Some of those in receipt of the tax credits will also be receiving a payment from the welfare system.

215,000 children are living in households below poverty thresholds and 40% of these children are in working households (based on poverty measure of 60% below median income AHC) (Perry 2018: 62).

People with a health condition or disability account for over 50% of the approx. 300,000 working-age people receiving a main benefit.

Each year over 630,000 people receive payments from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). This excludes superannuitants and those in receipt of student loans and allowances.

Housing payments are projected to total 3.1% of total Crown baseline expenditure in 2018/19.

Māori make up 36% of all working-age people receiving a benefit as the primary recipient.

50% of people leaving the benefit return within 18 months, especially those with lower earnings (Judd & Sung, 2018).

On average, housing costs make up around 45% of expenditure for low-income households. Māori home ownership is around 28%, Pacific 19% and European 57% (Johnson et al., 2018, WEAG, 2019i).

46% of obligation failures are disputed and 98% of these disputes are upheld.

31.6% of Pacific families face multiple disadvantages.

Over 11% of young people (15–24 years) are not in education, employment or training, and this figure has remained more or less constant for many years (Statistics New Zealand, 2018).

Over 50% of Māori children are growing up in households receiving a main benefit.

In June 2014, employment-focused case managers engaged proactively with 50% of their clients every month to support them into employment. This has fallen to an all-time low of 19%, and, over the past year, has continued to drop by an average of one percentage point per month.



LEARN MORE:

Download the *Whakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand* report, and the Executive Summary in English and Te Reo Māori at www.weag.govt.nz

Scan this QR code to access the New Zealand Sign Language video and other available formats including Easy Read.

