

# OUR WELFARE SYSTEM

New Zealand's welfare system provides income and other support services to a range of New Zealanders who find themselves in difficult situations.



Over **630,000** New Zealanders receive some form of welfare payment over a year (excluding superannuation)

- 182,000 of these people are working
- recipients with a health condition or disability make up 54% of all main beneficiaries.

**277,410** working age people receive a main benefit. **9.4%** of the working age population received a main benefit. These numbers do not include those receiving Working For Families tax credits.

## THERE ARE 61 DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO NEW ZEALANDERS FOR VARYING SITUATIONS:

**Main benefits include:** Jobseeker support, sole parent support, supported living payment, youth payment and young parent payment, emergency benefit, NZ superannuation/Veteran's Pension, Working for Families.

**Supplementary benefits include:** Housing Assistance, Childcare Assistance, Winter Energy Payment, Disability Allowance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child Benefits, Hardship assistance.

## OVER 320,000 HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WERE MADE IN THE JUNE 2018 QUARTER. FOOD HAS CONSISTENTLY REMAINED THE MAIN REASON FOR NEEDING THIS SUPPORT.

Māori are over-represented in the benefit system, making up 15% of the New Zealand population, but 36% of benefit recipients.

**279,283** people receive the Accommodation Supplement; 19% are non-beneficiaries.

Young people who come onto benefits before the age of 20 are more likely to stay on benefit longer.