

Date released: 9th August 2023



Request: OIA-1261

Original LGOIMA Request:

"I am reaching out to ask a few things about these "individual circumstances" in your council, if you are willing to answer:

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Private Bag 50058

- *Can you let me know what are considered in the process, besides rates, income, and dependants?*
- *Are senior citizens prioritized?*
- *Do you have information on how other councils validate applicants? Is the process similar across councils?"*

Official LGOIMA Response:

Can you let me know what are considered in the process, besides rates, income, and dependants?

When considering a rates rebate application the following must be considered:

- The gross income received from New Zealand and overseas, before tax and/or expense from the preceding tax year. Income generally includes all money received by the ratepayer and their spouse/partner from any source for their use or advantage. Exclusions include any capital money received from any source such as inheritance, prizes and winnings or sales of personal assets, any family tax credit payable under the Income Tax Act 2007 and any winter energy payments received under the Social Security Act 2018.
- The ratepayer must be using the property the rates are for as their usual place of residence on the 1st of July at the start of the rating year the application is for.
- The property cannot be used principally for commercial, industrial, business or farming purposes.
- A rebate may not be granted on more than one property however provisions can be made for ratepayers that change their place of residence during the rating year.
- Dependants of the ratepayer are generally children who are under the age of 18 years old and are not married, in a civil union or de facto relationship and who ordinarily reside on the property and/or relatives of the ratepayer who are receiving a social security benefit under the Social Security Act 2018 at the start of the rating year and who ordinarily reside on the property. A child who has been placed in the care of an approved person or the spouse/partner of a ratepayer are not classed as dependants. Money received by a dependant of the ratepayer is only included if they are also a ratepayer of the property.

Are senior citizens prioritized?

Rebate applications are processed as we receive the applications and the amount of rebate they are due is based on any incomes received, rates payable and dependants in their care. No one person is prioritized.

Do you have information on how other councils validate applicants? Is the process similar across councils?

We do not hold information on how other Councils process rebate applications; however the Department of Internal Affairs do supply a Rates Rebate Handbook which must be followed when considering a rebate application. As the same rules must apply then one can assume other Councils follow a similar process.