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24 FEB 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: [REDACTED] H202000318

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 24 January 2020 for information regarding eligibility and funding for Disability Support Services.

A copy of your request is attached as Appendix One.

The Disability directorate is responsible for the Ministry of Health's (the Ministry) advice on disability issues and the disability system. The directorate has responsibility for providing the oversight of 'end-to-end' activities and functions for the disability community, which includes the Maori disability community. This includes purchasing disability support services for people with a long-term physical, intellectual and/or sensory impairment that requires ongoing Government support to enhance their health and wellbeing, as well as advising on disability policy and ensuring disabled people receive the health care services they need.

Information in response to your request is attached as Appendix Two.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) website.

Yours sincerely



Adri Isbister
Deputy Director-General
Disability

24 January 2020

Ministry of Health
650 Great South Road,
Ellerslie,
Auckland 1051.

Family Funded Care

Email: FFCinfo@health.govt.nz

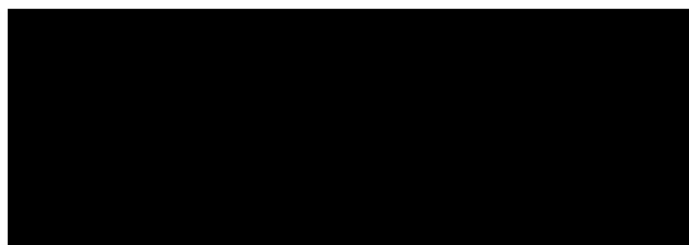
Tēnā koe,

RE: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 REQUEST – WAI 2575 HEALTH SERVICES AND OUTCOMES KAUPAPA INQUIRY ("THE HEALTH INQUIRY")

1. We write to you on behalf of several clients we represent who are participating in Stage two of the Health Inquiry which is currently being heard by the Waitangi Tribunal.
2. This correspondence is a request for documents under the Official Information Act 1982 ("the Act"). In this correspondence the definition of "official information" contained in Section 2(1) of the Act is adopted.
3. Therefore, by way of this letter, we request the following information.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

4. What are the criteria of high or very high related needs of disability?
 5. What are the criteria for a whānau carer's exception to the limit of allocated hours/or carer provided hours?
 6. Can a carer still be eligible for employment under FFC if they are receiving WINZ Supported Living Payments?
 7. How many families have received family funded care funding from:
 - a. 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
 - b. 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
 - c. 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019
 - d. 1 April 2019 to current.
 8. Please provide the ethnic background of those families who received FFC for the above periods.
-



9. Please provide the age of the person with disabilities, whose family accessed FFC for the above periods.

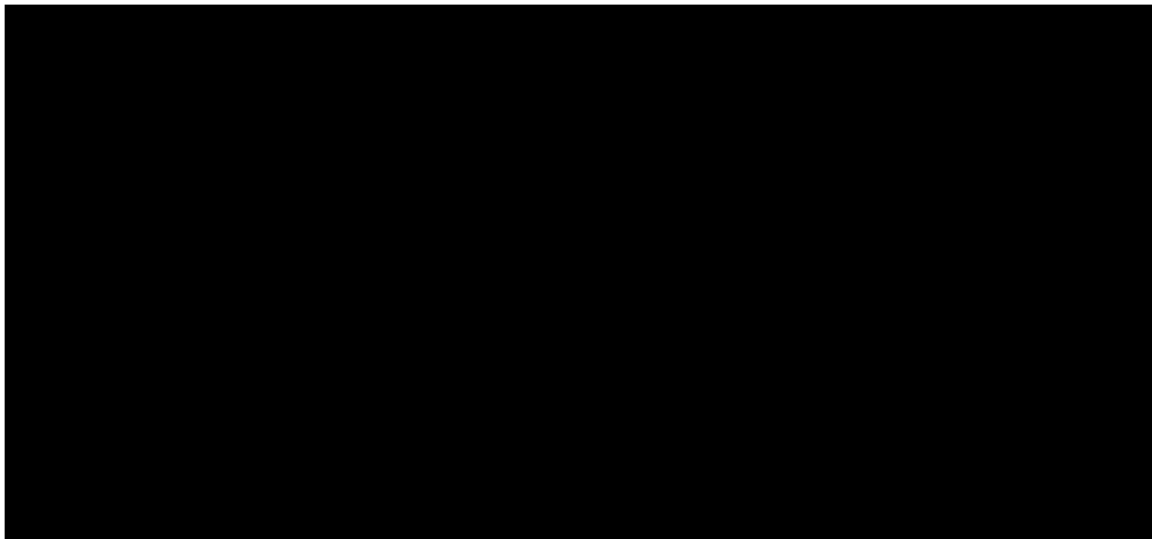
10. Please provide a breakdown of the locations of those who accessed FFC for the above periods.

11. Please identify the type of disabilities that were covered by FFC for the above periods.

12. Is a disabled person able to have individualised funding or supported living in conjunction with FFC funding?

13. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this request.

Nāku noa, nā



Appendix Two

4. “What are the criteria of high or very high related needs of disability?”

The Ministry has interpreted this question as referring to the criteria of high and very high disability related needs for accessing Funded Family Care (FFC).

FFC allows for the payment of an eligible and approved family/whānau member to provide care for resident family members assessed as having high or very high needs relating to disability, long-term chronic health conditions, mental health and addiction, or aged care needs. FFC policies are administered by the Ministry’s Disability Support Services and the district health board policies (DHB).

Information on the eligibility criteria for FFC, including for disabled people assessed as having high or very high disability related needs, is set out in section 3 of the Ministry’s Funded Family Care Operational Policy available at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/funded-family-care-operational-policy>

5. “What are the criteria for a whānau carer’s exception to the limit of allocated hours/or carer provided hours?”

Exceptions on the limit of allocated hours or carer provided hours are considered on a case by case basis. Details of the exceptions process can be found in the operational policy on the Ministry’s website at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/funded-family-care-operational-policy>

6. “Can a carer still be eligible for employment under FFC if they are receiving WINZ Supported Living Payments?”

FFC is considered employment and can impact on the amount received under the Supported Living Payment from Work and Income depending on individual circumstances and the amount of FFC allocated. Further information on how employment affects the Support Living Payment is available on the Work and Income website: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/health-and-disability-job-support/want-to-work-when-you-get-supported-living-payment.html>

7. “How many families have received family funded care funding from:

- a. 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
- b. 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
- c. 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019
- d. 1 April 2019 to current.”

The table below provides information collected on clients eligible to receive funded family care from approved family members. The information is broken down by financial year ending 30 June for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, which is the Ministry’s standard reporting.

Year ending 30 June	Number of clients receiving FFC
2016	294
2017	339
2018	392
2019	436

8. "Please provide the ethnic background of those families who received FFC for the above periods."

The table below provides the ethnicity information of clients eligible to receive FFC. Information on the ethnicity of the family members being paid to provide the care is not collected by the Ministry. The information is broken down by financial year ending 30 June for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Number of clients with disabilities accessing FFC by ethnicity	Year ending 30 June			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
European/Other	181	213	244	259
Māori	51	56	65	82
Pacific Islander	41	42	51	58
Asian	20	27	31	36
Not Stated/Don't Know	1	1	1	1
Total	294	339	392	436

9. "Please provide the age of the person with disabilities, whose family accessed FFC for the above periods."

The table below provides the number of clients accessing FFC by age group. The information is broken down by financial year ending 30 June for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Number of clients with disabilities accessing FFC by age group	Year ending 30 June			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 15	0	0	0	0
15 to 44 years	248	286	327	361
45 to 64 years	38	41	55	67
65 years and over	8	12	10	8
Total	294	339	392	436

10. "Please provide a breakdown of the locations of those who accessed FFC for the above periods."

The table below provides a yearly breakdown of the number of clients accessing FFC and the regions covered by Needs Assessment Service Coordination (NASC) agencies. The totals given are as at 30 June on each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. This more accurately represents the number of clients accessing FFC year on year.

Further details on local NASC agencies are available on the Ministry website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services/getting-support-disability/needs-assessment-and-service-coordination-services>

Number of clients accessing FFC		<u>Year ending 30 June</u>			
Local NASC	DHB Region	2016	2017	2018	2019
Access Ability Southland	Southern	16	15	22	23
Access Ability Taranaki	Taranaki	5	5	7	15
Access Ability Whanganui	Whanganui	4	6	8	9
Capital Support	Capital and Coast	20	23	28	30
Disability Support Link	Waikato	21	24	28	29
Enable New Zealand	MidCentral	14	25	34	34
Focus	Wairarapa	5	6	7	7
Life Links	West Coast Canterbury South Canterbury	39	48	50	62
Life Unlimited Hutt	Hutt	11	13	16	17
Life Unlimited Tairāwhiti	Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	0
NASC Hawke's Bay	Hawke's Bay	14	14	14	17
NorthABLE	Northland	17	20	27	35
Support Net	Lakes Bay of Plenty	44	43	48	46
Support Works	Nelson Marlborough	9	11	10	8
Taikura Trust	Waitemata Auckland Counties Manukau	75	86	93	104
Total		294	339	392	436

11. "Please identify the type of disabilities that were covered by FFC for the above periods."

The table below provides a yearly breakdown of the number of clients accessing FFC by principal disability. The totals given are as at 30 June on each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. This more accurately represents the number of clients accessing FFC year on year.

Principal disability of clients accessing FFC	<u>Year ending 30 June</u>			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Intellectual	148	170	193	212
Physical	107	124	138	154
Sensory	2	3	6	6
Autism Spectrum Disorder	28	30	41	51
Neurological	4	4	5	4
Other	5	8	9	9
Total	294	339	392	436

12. "Is a disabled person able to have individualised funding or supported living in conjunction with FFC funding?"

FFC is one service offered to eligible people. The total support package provided to a person with disabilities may be made of any number of services depending on their level of assessed need and eligibility for services. From 14 April 2020, the Ministry will offer the choice for a funded family carer to be either employed by a home and community support service provider to provide allocated services to their family member or; funded through a personal budget, such as individualised funding. For those eligible under DHB policies, this will be in place by June 2020.