



21 JUN 2016



Dear 

On 24 May 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many children and young people have been classified as High and Complex Needs in Canterbury from 2010 to 2015?*

The High and Complex Needs (HCN) Unit supports families, whānau and caregivers with children and young people who have high and complex needs. The HCN unit works closely with multiple government and non-government agencies helping to find positive solutions for children and young people who need it most. The unit is specifically targeted at the most complex end of the continuum and is for exceptional circumstances.

Between 70 to 100 children and young people around New Zealand receive support each year from nationally approved HCN interagency plans, delivered at the local level by interagency teams made up of the local practitioners working in the health and disability, care and protection, and education sectors. Further information on the HCN unit can be found at the following link: <http://www.hcn.govt.nz/>

There are 15 Interagency Management Groups (IMGs) throughout New Zealand which comprise of senior managers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Child, Youth and Family. The senior managers meet regularly to discuss and develop interagency plans for local children that have high and complex needs.

The table below shows the spread of individual children and young people with new plans over the Financial Years 2010/11 to 2015/16 for the Canterbury Region.

Region	Financial Year	Number of Individual Children & Young People with a New High Complex Needs Plan
Canterbury	2010/11	S
	2011/12	S
	2012/13	8
	2013/14	9
	2014/15	5
	2015/16	6
Total		37

'S' represents a suppressed value to protect clients' privacy.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

I hope you find this information regarding High and Complex Needs helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Viv Rickard
**Deputy Chief Executive
Child, Youth and Family
Ministry of Social Development**