



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

27 JUL 2017

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your request for information regarding the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme, which was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) from the Ministry of Education on 22 May 2017.

Specifically, the Ministry is responding to your request for the *Statistics on the number of students receiving post-secondary ORS funding*. I understand that the Ministry of Education will address the balance of your request.

As you will be aware, the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS), administered by the Ministry of Education, provides support to students with the highest levels of disability. ORS students are eligible for funding throughout their schooling until the age of 21. The Ministry of Education has recently undertaken work to ensure that support is targeted at the right students at the right time. Further information about this is available on the Ministry of Education's website: www.education.govt.nz.

There are two separate ways that the Ministry may provide additional support to young people who have received resources through ORS. Students who have been verified by the Ministry of Education as 'high needs' or 'very high needs', are under 21 years old and are in their last year of school, qualify for transitional assistance. The Ministry contracts services, such as Supported Employment Services, to assist these students with the coming transition from school into the community.

Additionally, the Ministry uses the 'very high needs' verification to identify individuals who will require additional support when they leave school. These individuals are no longer receiving ORS funding and have varying very high needs that require additional resource. For the purposes of this response, the Ministry has interpreted your request as referring to these individuals, as this is the only post-secondary funding related to ORS provided by the Ministry. 1,112 young people with 'very high needs' ORS verification received this specific support in the 2016/17 financial year.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this response, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

Please also note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz, or you can call the Office of the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Bound

Deputy Chief Executive Service Delivery