



12 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2024, requesting information about assistance with school stationery and uniform costs provided by the Ministry to people in Northland region.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

How many clients have work and income helped with stationary and/ or school uniform costs in December 2023 in Northland?

How many clients have applied for stationary and/ or school uniform costs in December 2023 in Northland?

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table one** which provides the number of hardship grant applications processed for selected school related cost types for the Northland Territorial Local Authority (TLA) areas (Kaipara District, Whangarei District and Far North District) for the period 1 December 2023 to 31 December 2023.

How much money, in total, has work and income supplied to clients requiring help with stationary/and or school uniform costs in December 2023 in Northland?

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table two** which provides the amount of hardship grants for selected school related cost types for the Northland TLA areas (Kaipara District, Whangarei District, and Far North District) for the period 1 December 2023 to 31 December 2023.

How many clients applied for OSCAR subsidies for before/after school care in December 2023 in Northland?

I refer you to **Appendix two, Table three** which provides the number of OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) applications processed and number of distinct clients for the Northland TLA areas (Kaipara District, Whangarei District and Far North District) for the period 1 December 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Please note that this data does not capture all OSCAR subsidy grants and declines. For clients that have had an existing OSCAR subsidy, declaration forms are generated and sent four weeks prior to every holiday period. On receipt, clients and their OSCAR provider complete and return the declaration form to Work and Income who then assess entitlement to holiday care for the upcoming

holiday period. This is a requirement for each holiday period. The declaration forms are issued to check if the care arrangements for a child are changing and to obtain details of any school holiday programme the child may be attending. The application outcome data we have provided in **Table three** does not include declaration form outcomes.

Number of applications in December 2023 for school uniform costs from clients whose income exceeds the threshold, in Northland Region? (to assess if this can also be provided for OSCAR grants).

We have interpreted this as a request for the number of hardship applications for selected school related cost types that were declined for the Northland TLA areas (Kaipara District, Whangarei District and Far North District) from 1 December to 31 December 2023, by reason for decline and school related cost type.

I can advise that no applications were declined because the applicant's income exceeded the income threshold.

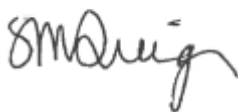
Likewise, of the OSCAR applications declined for the Northland TLA areas (Kaipara District, Whangarei District and Far North District) for the period 1 December to 31 December 2023, none were declined because the applicant's income exceeded the income threshold. Again, please note that the decline data provided in Table three does not include declines following submission of a declaration form.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services