



28 MAY 2019

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On 30 January 2019, you emailed the Minister for Social Development requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the Mana in Mahi programme.

On 4 February 2019, the following two questions were transferred to the Ministry of Social Development as they are operational matters and are therefore more closely aligned with the function of the Ministry.

- *Could I please also get a list of all providers that have been accepted into the pilot scheme, and the total number of placements currently on offer, both filled and unfilled placement.*
- *Could I please get the number of young people who have applied for Mana in Mahi, the number who have received a placement, the number that have left or been asked to leave a placement before completion, and the number that have completed a placement.*

The Mana in Mahi programme seeks to help young people to gain qualifications and meaningful work by connecting with employers and working towards a qualification. The programme pays the equivalent of the young person's benefit, with the employer topping up this amount to ensure that the client receives at least the minimum wage. Additionally, the programme provides funding for pastoral care to ensure the role is sustainable.

Employers range from small businesses to very large nationwide employers. The Ministry recognises the public interest in our programmes but also wishes to protect the privacy of the clients on them. One factor that may lead to the identification that a New Zealander has or is on benefit is their participation in a Work and Income programme with an employer. For example, if a business has three employees and it is known that it has an employee on a Work and Income programme, it is very likely that people will be able to identify the individual. For a programme like Mana in Mahi where there is an age requirement, it is even easier.

As at the end of April, there were 96 contracted employers on Phase 1 of Mana in Mahi and a further 42 have applied. The Mana in Mahi programme does not distinguish between size of employers and as such the Ministry cannot readily report on employers by size. However, as we recognise the public interest in the outcomes of the programme, the Ministry has undertaken the process of collating information about employers by size where it is known. I apologise for the time this has taken. Of those contracted employers, 16 have been identified as employers with 50 or more

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employees. Please find attached the list of these employers. I am withholding the names of the other contracted employers under section 9(2)(a) of the Act as the release of the names of the employers could result in the identification of the individual clients and the unintentional release of the personal information, namely that they have been in receipt of a benefit for three months or more.

A Mana in Mahi place is a full-time employment position with an employer. As such, Case Managers and Employment Service Representatives work with young clients of the Ministry to identify suitable roles, and then make a referral. Employers will then decide whether to employ the young person. In order to ensure an appropriate placement is made, the Ministry may refer several eligible young people to each role.

As at the end of April, the Ministry had placed 159 clients into Mana in Mahi opportunities and contracted employers are offering a total of 276 places. Please note, however, that not all of these positions will be available at any one time, as some providers will operate a staggered intake to ensure clients have the best chance of finding secure long-term employment.

Mana in Mahi is being delivered in two phases, and is currently in phase one. Phase one of the programme seeks to learn what is working and not working for clients and employers. These lessons will then inform the design of phase two. As with other employment programmes, the Ministry acknowledges that not all clients will remain in their placement for the full 12 months of support. A number of factors contribute to attrition rates, and this is one of the areas where the lessons of phase one will inform the design of phase two.

Similarly, due to the nature of the programme, there is no 'completion' of the programme. Clients are in full time work and they are supported by MSD for a period of 12 months after placement. Due to the age of the programme, no clients have completed 12 months in a placement with Mana in Mahi.

As at the end of April, of the 159 participants in the Mana in Mahi programme, 111 were still actively engaged in it, 34 had left the programme of their own accord and 14 were dismissed. There are a range of reasons why an employee may elect to leave the programme. For example, one individual was unable to continue in the programme as a medical issue meant that they were unable to continue to undertake the hours of work required to complete the industry training qualification. In each situation, the Ministry will work with the individual and the employer to ensure the best outcome possible can be achieved.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. 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.

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 this response, 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.

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cassandra Wise

Manager Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Contracted Mana in Mahi employers as at the end of April 2019 identified as having 50 or more employees:

Acrow Ltd
Central Hawkes Bay District Council
Downer NZ
FarmCare Services Ltd
Higgins Contractors Limited
Jack Inglis Friendship Hospital
JC & MJ Hurley Ltd
Mitre 10 Mega
Riverland Fruit Company Ltd
Telelink
Tumu Timbers Ltd
Turners and Growers - Hawke's Bay
Vivo Beauty Limited
Wellington Hospitality Academy Ltd
Wells Instrument and Electrical Ltd
Woodhaven Gardens Ltd