



Tēnā koe

On 30 August 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The process of applying for the Wage Subsidy when a Relief Kindergarten teacher Works for kindergartens as well as a multiple of Private sectors early learning centres.*

The Wage Subsidy Scheme has enabled rapid support for thousands of New Zealand businesses during this time of uncertainty and has ensured that employees are able to remain connected with their employers during the COVID-19 lockdown. The scheme has been set up on a high-trust model in order to quickly deliver funds to support workers, families and businesses.

Employees are not able to apply directly for the Wage Subsidy Scheme. In cases where businesses may have an employee working for them, and another employer. The employee may work more than 20 hours for one business, and less than 20 hours for the other. If both businesses meet the criteria, they can each apply for COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (August 2021) for the same employee.

Information on the Ministry's COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (August 2021) qualifications can be found on the Work and Income website at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/specific-employment-related-assistance/covid-19-wage-subsidy-scheme-august-2021/qualifications.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/specific-employment-related-assistance/covid-19-wage-subsidy-scheme-august-2021/qualifications.html).

Since 25 August 2020, the Ministry has continued to pay Childcare Assistance (i.e. the Childcare Subsidy and the OSCAR Subsidy) to approved providers during COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4 so long as clients remain otherwise entitled to the subsidy. This is regardless of whether or not the provider charges a fee for holding open the places of children who are absent. The reason for Childcare Assistance continuing to be paid during Alert Levels 3 and 4 is to help providers remain viable. Providers should treat the Childcare Assistance received during Alert Levels 3 and 4 as income in the same way that it is treated during Alert Level 1. The Ministry does not expect providers to use the Childcare Assistance that is paid during Alert Levels 3 and 4 to credit parents' future fees.

More information on assistance offered by other Government departments can be found online at the following links:

[www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-for-schoolskura/emergency-payment-scheme-for-casual-staff/](http://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-for-schoolskura/emergency-payment-scheme-for-casual-staff/).

[www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment](http://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment).

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry'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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding information on Wage Subsidy support for relief teachers, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

*Bridget Saunders*

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