



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

15 December 2023

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 24 November 2023, clarifying your request for information about the Court Support Service.

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

1.) The total amount of funding that was received each year [from 2019]

Please find the attached **Appendix** containing a financial breakdown of each initiative funded through the Court Support Funding, broken down by financial year from 2018/19 (F2019) to 2023/24 (F2024).

2.) The target market for these service

The target market for these services is contained in the Court Support Services Guidelines (the Guidelines), which is available here:
www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/service-guidelines/court-support-service-guidelines.pdf

Specifically, page 10 states: *Court Support Services are delivered to people affected by sexual violence who have reported a claim to Police, given a statement of what has happened, and a charge has been filed by the Police against the perpetrator. For the purpose of these guidelines, the scope for providers to deliver services is to adults (18 and over), with capability to also support their whānau and/or families in the context of supporting the primary adult survivor.*

3.) How the viability of the program was tested and qualified for funding

In 2018, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) initiated a 12-month pilot of the Court Support service to provide psychological support to address emotional, mental spiritual and social needs for victims of sexual violence going through the criminal justice system.

There was an evaluation done on the pilot which found:

- The Court Support service model was effective with the pilot filling a gap in client service provision within the criminal justice system.
- The pilot provided trauma-care and client-focused support alongside tools and strategies to help clients manage at times of heightened anxiety, depression, and low levels of wellbeing.
- Pathways through the justice system were complex. Clients required support before, during and after trial. Adequate preparation with a court support worker for trial, sentencing and beyond made a positive difference for all clients and helped them cope within a system they saw as *'demoralising'*.

Overall, the evaluation findings supported the continuation of the Court Support pilot. Here are some links to information about the pilot:

- www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/family-and-sexual-violence/specialist-services/court-support-pilot-evaluation.pdf
- www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/family-and-sexual-violence/specialist-services/a3-summary-of-court-support-pilot-evaluation.pdf.

4.) How the effectiveness of the program is measured

The Ministry gathers quarterly reporting from funded providers to ensure we are aware of the challenges and successes of the service being delivered. This is gained by answering a range of questions and providing data. The Ministry does not require providers to give client level information or information regarding how effective they found the service to be, this is to ensure confidentiality and to protect the relationship providers have with their clients.

Information on reporting requirements is also found in section 8 of the Guidelines.

The Ministry also employs Regional Relationship Managers, whose core responsibilities are to engage with providers to ensure they meet their contractual obligations, to raise issues when providers are not meeting their obligations, and address any other matters as they occur.

Clients of contracted providers can also raise complaints with providers directly or Te Kāhui Kāhu to [make a complaint](#) about a provider.

5.) Which services provide a self-help avenue for lay litigants to confidently and safely represent themselves

This type of support is not provided by the Court Support Service.

6.) When the next round of funding applications is open, and the link for this funding to apply

The Ministry responded to this question in its letter to you dated 21 November 2023. When funding opportunities arise, they are listed on the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS).

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.

Magnus O'Neill

**General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services**



Appendix

A breakdown of each provider funded to deliver Court Support services, broken down by financial year from 2018/19 (F2019) to 2023/24 (F2024).

Legal Entity Name	F2019	F2021	F2022	F2023	F2024	Grand Total
Abuse & Rape Crisis Support Manawatu Incorporated	-	-	\$ 132,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 396,168.25
Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP Foundation Charitable Trust	\$ 92,000.00	\$ 209,561.02	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 1,091,897.52
AVIVA (Incorporating Christchurch Women's Refuge) Charitable Trust	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 868,174.77
Counselling Services Centre	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 473,006.52
Midlands Sexual Assault Support Services Trust	-	-	\$ 99,792.06	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 363,237.56
Mid-South Island Women's Refuge and Family Safety Services Incorporated	-	-	-	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 263,445.50
Rape and Abuse Support Centre Southland Incorporated	-	-	-	-	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75
Rape Crisis (Dunedin) Incorporated	-	-	\$ 132,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 396,168.25
Rape Crisis Gisborne Incorporated	-	-	-	\$ 76,399.20	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 208,121.95
Sexual Abuse Support and Healing (SASH-Nelson) Incorporated	-	-	-	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 263,445.50
Skylight Trust	-	\$ 254,933.00	-	-	-	\$ 254,933.00
Tautoko Mai Sexual Harm Support Services Trust	-	-	\$ 132,722.75	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 263,445.50	\$ 659,613.75
Te Whare Ruruhou O Meri Trust Board	-	\$ 65,861.38	\$ 132,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 462,029.63
Tu Wahine Trust	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 473,006.52
Wellington Rape Crisis Incorporated	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 473,006.52
Wellington Sexual Abuse Help Foundation	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 473,006.52
Whanganui Safe and Free Incorporated	-	-	-	-	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75
Whangarei Rape Crisis Incorporated	-	\$ 77,838.27	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 131,722.75	\$ 473,006.52
Grand Total	\$ 92,000.00	\$ 997,385.00	\$ 1,816,188.00	\$ 2,315,686.00	\$ 2,634,455.00	\$ 7,855,714.00