



27 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 29 May 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Can you please provide details of the financial assistance MSD gave people in the recent emergencies of the Loafers lodge and Cyclone Gabrielle.*
- *Specifically, how much is advances or support that needs to be paid back versus money that does not.*
- *Can you please provide figures for this and give an idea of what the assistance has been for.*

With regard to Cyclone Gabrielle, the Ministry's Community Support Package which was designed to alleviate pressure on community groups and contracted providers who mobilised to support people, families and communities affected by the severe weather events in early 2023. Included in the wider Community Support Package were a number of separate funds to widen the scope of support available for those in affected areas, including those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

More information about the Community Support Package can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/community-support-package-north-island-floods-and-cyclone-gabrielle.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/community-support-package-north-island-floods-and-cyclone-gabrielle.html).

Attached, please find a copy of the *Community Support Package Dashboard*, dated 15 June 2023 which outlines community and provider funding implementation as part of the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle welfare response. On page 2, you will find the number of applications received, the number of applications approved and the geographical distribution of recipients.

Regarding your request for details of the financial assistance provided to clients affected by Loafers Lodge fire, the information you have requested would require substantial manual collation as the information is held in individual files.

I therefore refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

Following the Loafers Lodge tragedy we worked closely with Wellington City Council, who led the welfare response, and other agencies to support people displaced by the fire.

As well as helping people with their immediate needs our help included supporting their search for sustainable long-term accommodation.

We assisted people with a wide range of support that included food, clothing, bedding, linen, glasses, dentures, beds, other small household goods and emergency housing. A lot of the assistance provided was non-recoverable. Support is still ongoing for those people who need it.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 about Ministry assistance for those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and the Loafers Lodge fire, 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*

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager**  
**Issue Resolution**  
**Service Delivery**

## Key Messages

**As at 9am 15 June, we have committed just over \$17.24 million from the \$21 million\* Community Support Package.**

### Summary of funding distribution for period ending 15 June 2023

- The Community Support Fund received an additional \$3 million to further support communities. 6 applications were approved between Thursday 8 June to Wednesday 14 June totalling \$0.154 million.
- The Provider Support Fund received an additional \$2 million to further support providers. 6 applications were approved between Thursday 8 June to Wednesday 14 June totalling \$0.119 million.
- Discretionary funding approved for Community Connectors between Thursday 8 June to Wednesday 14 June totalling \$0.202 million.
- Community Food received an additional \$2 million to further support communities. 15 Community Food providers were approved between Thursday 8 June to Wednesday 14 June totalling \$0.230 million.
- A total of \$0.470 million has been committed for the AOG communications support.
- Funding to support disabled people remains fully exhausted.

### High level lines on the package

- Information on the funding package is live on the [MSD website](#). All communications clearly state that funding is time limited and will only be available to 30 June 2023.
- Prioritisation of funding continues to focus on people and areas most impacted. We are working with our regions to proactively engage with providers and community groups we hold existing relationships with.
- Agencies are working to ensure funding reaches the communities in the most need. We are working with Social Wellbeing Agency to understand the scale of impact in each region. As part of this work, we are also working to ensure we target equitable support to organisations that support priority populations in impacted regions.
- We are developing an approach to reporting from grant recipients, which is easy to complete and is proportionate to the level of investment.
- We are working with MEC, MPP, MBIE and Whaikaha to agree on the approach to distributing the \$0.5 million for short term translation support. As part of this work, we are engaging with MBIE on utilising/expanding their Connecting Now service to support access to interpreting services. We will work with the DPMC Cyclone Recovery Unit on how to best manage AOG communications and coordination response going forward.

### Cross agency engagement

- Ongoing engagement and coordination of support packages with other government agencies (NEMA, Whaikaha, TPK, MPP, MEC, DIA and Te Whatu Ora etc) continues.
- Agencies have agreed on a cross government contract flexibility framework. Individual agencies are looking at how this framework will be applied in a manner that is specific to their needs.
- MSD has determined how we will approach contract flexibility and communicated this approach to our provider networks on 3 March.

## Implementation Approach



### Community Support Fund (\$5m)

- This funding is for local community groups, who are not contracted by a government agency to support the wellbeing of whānau affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Originally capped at \$3,500 per organisation will allow support for up to 570 groups.
- Cap increased to \$20,000 per organisation from 9 March.
- Funding will be allocated via a conditional grant.



### Provider Support Fund (\$6m)

- This funding is for providers who already have government contracts in the social sector.
- This fund includes support for provider wellbeing acknowledging the cumulative impacts of events of the last 3 years.
- Originally capped at \$7,000 per organisation will allow support for up to 570 organisations.
- Cap increased to \$40,000 per organisation from 9 March.
- Funding will be allocated via a conditional grant.



### Community Connectors (\$4m)

- This funding will support existing Care in the Community welfare response Community Connectors to widen the scope of the support they provide – from their current remit of supporting people impacted by COVID-19, to also supporting those affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Discretionary funding to support households will be increased to up to \$1,000 per household.



### Food (\$5m)

- This funding will support existing community food providers to refill their stocks and respond to current demand in communities affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- This funding will be distributed through existing systems, including the New Zealand Food Network which supports community food providers by facilitating bulk purchasing of essential food items.
- Capped at \$10k per organisation will allow for at least 50 providers to be supported with grant funding.



### Disability Support (\$0.5m)

- This funding will support disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and/or their households to access support for immediate and unexpected needs due the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Capped at \$1,000 per individual or household supported.



# Community Support Package | 15 June 2023

Community and provider funding implementation as part of flood and Cyclone Gabrielle welfare response

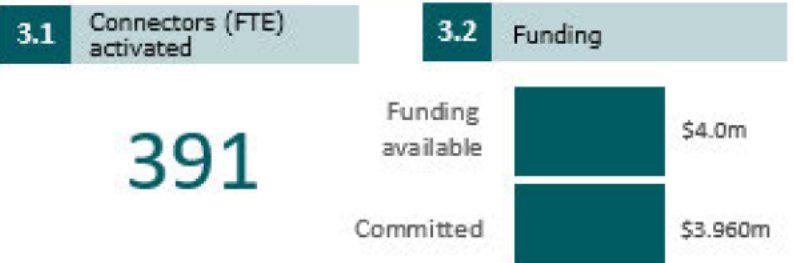
## 1 Community support



## 2 Provider support



## 3 Community Connector



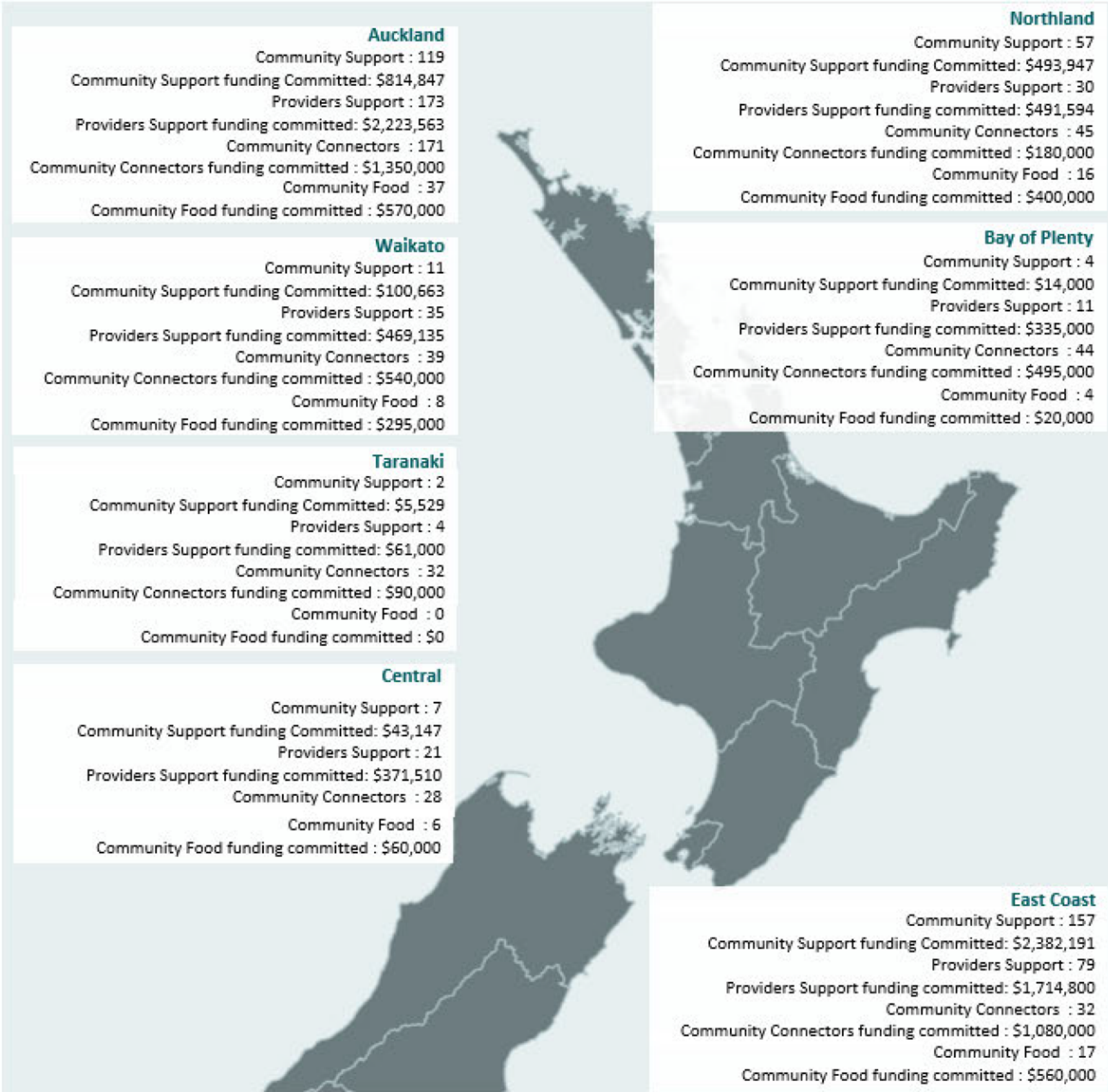
## 4 Community Food






## 5 Disability



## 6 MSD regions



## Section 7: The number of community groups, providers and Community Connector FTE funded through the Community Support Package who identify as primarily serving Māori, Pacific and Ethnic or Migrant populations and, the funding committed to them

	Māori		Pacific		Ethnic and Migrant	
	Organisations	Funding Committed	Organisations	Funding Committed	Organisations	Funding Committed
 <b>Community Support Fund (\$2m)</b>	237	\$1,805,649	43	\$263,428	75	\$575,440
 <b>Provider Support Fund (\$4m)</b>	122	\$2,221,439	32	\$693,975	16	\$262,500
 <b>Community Connectors (\$4m)</b>	31	\$2,047,500	10	\$855,000	8	\$382,500



## Explainers

### Section 1: Community Support Fund

**1.1 Applications** - Total number of applications the Ministry has received

**1.2 Approved** - Total number of applications the Ministry has approved

#### 1.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - Total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

### Section 2: Provider Support Fund

**2.1 Applications** - Total number of applications the Ministry has received

**2.2 Approved** - Total number of applications the Ministry has approved

#### 2.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

### Section 3: Community Connectors

**3.1 Connectors activated (FTE)** - Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) that have been activated to support flood and cyclone response. All connectors in the affected regions have been activated.

#### 3.2 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

### Section 6: MSD regions

- This diagram shows resources allocated to the affected MSD regions (Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and East Coast). Regional and national counts will not reconcile because some larger providers and groups work across regions.
- Some providers will be delivering support to disabled people across multiple areas, therefore are not able to be displayed for a specific region/location.

### Section 4: Community Food

**4.1 Food providers funded** - Total number of community food providers the Ministry has funded.

#### 4.2 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

### Section 5: Disability

**4.1 Disability providers approached** - Total number of providers the Ministry has approached

**4.2 Disability providers accepted** - Total number of providers who have accepted this funding

#### 4.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount funding the Ministry has committed

### Section 7 Explainers:

- **Māori** - Community groups or providers who have identified Māori as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Pacific** - Community groups or providers who have identified Pacific peoples as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Ethnic and Migrant** - Community groups or providers who have identified Ethnic and Migrant people as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Organisations** - The number of organisations who have been approved funding that identify as primarily serving this population.
- **Funding committed** - The amount funding the Ministry has committed to those organisations.