



28 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 07 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I'd like to formally make an OIA request to ask how much the 2022 Youth Parliament program cost the taxpayer in total.*

On 07 March 2023, the Ministry advised you that more time was required to respond to your request and that the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 28 March 2023.

The Ministry will now respond to your request.

Youth Parliament is a chance for Aotearoa New Zealand's young people to experience for themselves how our country's democracy functions, either by representing a Member of Parliament (MP), as part of the Youth Press Gallery, or, for the first time in 2022, as the Youth Clerk of the House. It is a triennial programme that aims to actively involve young people in the parliamentary process and provide an opportunity for their views to be heard. It brings 120 Youth MPs, 20 Youth Press Gallery members, and a Youth Clerk of the House together in the parliamentary precinct for a two-day event to simulate the parliamentary process.

The six-month preparatory Youth Parliament 2022 programme ran from 01 March to 31 August 2022, with a two-day Youth Parliament event held on 19-20 July 2022. The Youth Parliament 2022 participants took part in this six-month programme, actively engaging with other young people and their communities.

The Ministry works with a cross-agency working group (comprising of the Electoral Commission, the Ministries of Education, Social Development (MSD), and Youth Development (MYD)- Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OOC), and the Speaker of the House of Representatives) to implement Youth Parliament, and to identify initiatives to improve the implementation of the Youth Parliament model and widen youth engagement.

MYD covered the costs associated with Youth Parliament 2022 within its baseline budgets. MYD has advised the cost of Youth Parliament 2022, including dedicated project personnel employed between June 2021 and September 2022, and costs associated with the two-day event which were largely related to participants' travel, accommodation, catering, and other professional services (for example, photography, filming/broadcasting, interpreter etc.) was \$451,500.00. The role of one of the staff members employed by MYD for Youth Parliament 2022 included responsibility for pastoral care of participants, ensuring that their individual wellbeing needs were supported throughout the process.

OOC supported the delivery of Youth Parliament 2022 in the form of programme facilitation, pedagogical expertise, and delivering the Youth Clerk of the House role.

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 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.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



Justine Cornwall
General Manager, Youth