



4 July 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2025, requesting information relating to the Samoan Congregational Christian Church of NZ Mangere Trust.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Thank you for your patience while we responded to your request – please find my decision set out below.

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) has located one grant made to the Samoan Congregational Christian Church of NZ Mangere Trust.

The grant was for \$5,280 (excl. GST) in July 2020 from the COVID-19 Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant Fund. This grant was given to essential social services and allowed them to continue to support their communities during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Community Support Package Grant and the Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant were one off grants. They do not have start and end dates.

The urgency and speed in which the Ministry was expected to respond to the pandemic outweighed standard reporting requirements at that time. Given the pressures on the community sector to respond to the demands and needs of communities during COVID-19, the Ministry prioritised seeking reports from the more acute-need providers, rather than community organisations, such as the Samoan Congregational Christian Church of NZ Mangere, which received smaller amounts. Consequently, we did not receive reports from the Samoan Congregational Christian Church of NZ Mangere for the grant it received.

For more information on this grant, please see our website:

- www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/community-awareness-and-preparedness-grant-fund.html.

The Royal Commission Covid-19 Lessons Learned report recognised that most government agencies reduced their monitoring and reporting requirements on existing social service and community contracts during this time.

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



Anna Graham

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