



25 March 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2025, requesting information about whether the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) has sent its staff on courses/workshops offered by Bead & Proceed over the past three years broken down by year.

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 dates your organisation have sent staff on courses/workshops offered by Bead & Proceed over the last three years broken down by year.*

An extensive check across the Ministry identified that staff from the Taranaki, King Country, and Whanganui region attended two Bead & Proceed half-day courses held in New Plymouth on 19 and 20 September 2022.

- 2. The reasoning behind using this service and a breakdown of which courses/workshops were attended that were offered by Bead & Proceed*

The Ministry's Regional Commissioner has two roles, one as the senior Ministry official responsible for Ministry services for the Taranaki, King Country, and Whanganui region. The second is as the Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) for Taranaki region.

The purpose of the first half-day workshop on 19 September 2022 was to provide an opportunity for senior public services leaders in the Taranaki region to meet face to face following the Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements.

Regional Ministry staff attendance at the two Bead & Proceed courses was for two purposes.

- The Regional Public Service Leaders Forum was a full day hui on 19 September 2022 for a group of senior public service leaders representing the Taranaki region, which had a broader purpose than the Bead & Proceed course – which was only a sub-set of the overall meeting.
- Ministry staff learning and development.

As Bead & Proceed were already in the region, the Ministry used the opportunity to avail themselves of the same 3-hour course at a reduced cost on 20 September 2022, where they provided a second half-day morning workshop for 25 Ministry of Social Development regional staff (including client service delivery managers and senior regional team members).

The purpose was to build relationships between our client service delivery managers and the regional team, as there had been several staff movements and changes in both teams.

*3. The total staff numbers over these three years and a breakdown by year and courses/workshops*

The Bead & Proceed course on Monday 19 September 2022 was attended by five Ministry staff and 33 Regional Public Service Leaders from 23 agencies. The course on Tuesday 20 September 2022 was attended by 25 Ministry staff.

*4. The total cost of fees paid to Bead & Proceed for attending each courses/workshops*

The total cost was \$5,034.60 (GST inclusive) and was paid by the Ministry to Bead & Proceed for provision of the two half-day workshops. The cost was paid from the Regional Public Service budget (this funding comes from Vote MSD under the Public Service Act 2020).

Information on itemised costs from the provider is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, this would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. The greater public interest is in ensuring that the commercial position can be maintained.

*5. The total cost of flights to send staff on each courses/workshops*

*6. The total cost of accommodation paid to send staff on each Bead & Proceed courses/workshops*

The cost of flights of \$439.39 and accommodation/booking fees of \$214.22 for one Ministry staff member, was paid for by the staff member's business unit.

*7. Any other relevant costs of sending staff on Bead & Proceed events/courses/workshops including food and transport.*

Other relevant costs were \$3,653 (GST inclusive) for venue hire and catering, comprising \$2,100 for day one and \$1,553 for day two. These costs were in line with standard Ministry policies on training and entertainment costs in place in 2022.

*8. What level of seniority staff attended each Bead & Proceed courses/workshops*

Taranaki regional leaders, District Council chief executives, directors, senior managers, managers, and advisors attended the course that was offered on 19 September 2022.

For the 20 September 2022 Bead & Proceed half-day morning workshop, please see my response to your Question 2 about Ministry regional staff.

9. *Please provide any evaluations carried out by your organisation as to the value of sending staff on Bead & Proceed courses both before and after the event or courses/workshops.*

Please find attached:

- Completed Evaluation sheets by Regional Public Service Leads.

You will note that the information regarding some individuals is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anna Graham', with a stylized, flowing script.

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**