



27 November 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request that was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on 30 October 2025, requesting all briefings, reports, evaluations and Cabinet papers regarding the Care in the Community funds.

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. Information relating to funding specifically for Pacific communities as part of the response to COVID-19

Your request mentions the Ministry's Care in the Community Disability Welfare Fund, and details of this programme are available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/covid-19/care-in-the-community-welfare-response/care-in-the-community-disability-welfare-fund.html. You will see this link includes a further link to the successful applicants for assistance under this fund, and the funding they received. Please note the purpose of the fund was to support the wellbeing of disabled people and their whānau and was developed in collaboration with these communities.

To assist your understanding of the Ministry's requirements for applicants to receive funding, a link to the application form on our website is provided here: <https://msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/covid-19/care-in-the-community-welfare-response/care-in-the-community-disability-welfare-fund-application-form-for-printing.pdf>.

You will see under section two (application details), question 2 asks about the applicant's reach into the following group: Māori, Pacific, Ethnic and Migrant. I am advised that the panel evaluating the applicants used a weighted scoring system based on defined evaluation criteria — one of which specifically addressed the applicant's ability to reach Māori, Pacific, ethnic, and migrant communities. However, no summary or aggregation of responses or application information was kept on our file recording any further breakdown of responses into separate Māori, Pacific, Ethnic and Migrant categories, as this was not the purpose of the question.

Accordingly, the number of successful applicants specifically targeted at Pacific communities that received funding, is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to identify and collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within the 295 applications, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

2. Provide all briefings, cabinet papers, reports and evaluations relating to the Care in the Community funds

The Cabinet papers and evaluations in relation to Care in the Community Disability Welfare Fund (CiC) are all publicly available. For your reference, I list them and provide a link to where you can find them. Please note that the reports that give updates on CiC funds are sparse on specifics to Pacific providers and the disability welfare fund.

Cabinet Papers:

- December 2021, Implementation of the accommodation and welfare-system approaches under the COVID-19 Protection Framework: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/implementation-under-protection-framework.html.
- February 2022, Care in the Community – Welfare Response to Omicron: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/welfare-response-to-omicron.html.
- April 2022, The Care in the Community welfare response after the peak of Omicron: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/welfare-response-to-omicron.html.
- March 2023, Support for communities and community providers significantly impacted by flooding: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2023/support-for-communities-and-community-providers-significantly-impacted-by-flooding.html.

Evaluations:

- Real-Time Evaluation of the Care in the Community Welfare Response: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/real-time-evaluation-of-the-care-in-the-community-welfare-response/index.html.
- Care in the Community\Covid-19 welfare response evaluation <https://msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications->

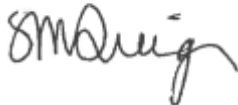
resources/research/care-in-the-community-covid-19-welfare-response-evaluation/index.html.

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. 

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