



6 October 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2025, requesting information about Child Impact Assessments.

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.

You have asked how many Child Impact Assessments (CIA) have been completed since its inception, and what topics they cover.

I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you had requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The CIA was finalised and published in 2018, which sets out best practice when developing policy that may impact children and ensuring their views are considered in government decision-making. The CIA is one of many tools and guidance that government agencies use to inform policy development, but it is not mandatory. Therefore, other government agencies are not required to report to the Ministry when they have completed a CIA.

While the Ministry encourages other government agencies to use the CIA, where appropriate, I do acknowledge that there is a plethora of resources available online to inform government policy development. While the Ministry does not hold a formal record of how many CIAs have been completed by other government agencies, we can provide you with examples of completed CIAs that we are aware of and are publicly available. These CIAs are available on the New Zealand Parliament website at:

- www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCSS_ADV_116701_SS3086/ministry-of-social-development-child-impact-assessment
- www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCSSC_ADV_09fdcd32-87ef-4c46-e703-08dd18052784_SSC20689/ministry-of-social-development-child-impact-assessment

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

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Anna Graham
General Manager
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