



1 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email that was transferred from the Minister for Youth's office on 4 July 2025 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), which the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) is a business unit within. You have requested information about MYD's funding to youth-led and youth advisory groups in the past five financial years.

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.

Question 1: How much funding has the Ministry of Youth Development allocated to youth-led groups in each of the past five financial years, per year and by youth-led group?

Question 2: How much funding has been spent, if any different from allocation?

Question 3: As above in question 1, but what is the projected allocation for 2024/25?

MYD does not categorise the organisations it funds by whether they are youth-led or not, and to go through five financial years of information and determine whether the groups are youth-led would require significant work. Where this information exists, substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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.

To be helpful, we are providing you with the following tables that are publicly available on the MYD website, which display funding allocated to youth development organisations from 2021/2022:

- www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f22-funding/myd-funding.pdf
- www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-my-d-funding-table.pdf

- www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-akonga-youth-development-community-fund-table.pdf
- <https://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f26-funding/2025-2026-youth-enterprise-providers.pdf>

Question 4: How much funding has the Ministry of Youth Development allocated to youth advisory groups in each of the past five financial years, per year and by youth advisory group?

Question 5: How much funding has been spent, if any different from allocation?

Question 6: As above in question 4, but what is the projected allocation for 2024/25?

Similar to above, MYD does not categorise the organisations it funds and the programmes they are delivering by whether they include a youth advisory group (YAG) or not, and to go through five financial years of information and determine whether they do would require significant work. Where this information exists, substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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.

However, MYD did establish its own YAG in 2022 which continues to operate. The purpose of the group is to provide advice to MYD on specific projects that help embed youth voice into government decision-making.

A central focus for the MYD YAG in 2022-2023 was supporting the review and refresh of the Youth Plan. Following the launch of the refreshed Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action (Youth Plan) in August 2023, the MYD YAG has been contributing to and supporting implementation of Youth Plan actions.

More recent work of the MYD YAG has included supporting the design and delivery of the Youth Parliament programme, providing input to the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey design (further information can be found here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/consultations/youth-health-and-wellbeing-survey-results/index.html), and providing feedback on a Youth-friendly version of the Child and Youth Strategy.

The MYD budget and actual spend for the MYD YAG since its establishment in 2022 is provided in the table below:

Financial year	Budget	Actual spend
2022/2023	\$60,000.00	\$31,301.23
2023/2024	\$60,000.00	\$20,434.01
2024/2025	\$58,231.00	\$26,159.61

Note that this MYD YAG budget did not exist prior to 2022, but the budgeted amount was based on the budget of a different advisory board that MYD operated prior to 2022 which had higher expenses as members were required to meet for full days and travel to meetings. The majority of MYD YAG engagements are online and for one to two hours. There have been various iterations of the MYD YAG since it was established in 2022, each with a different number of members and work programme which has resulted in variances in total fees paid to individuals and the whole group during each year. There has also been additional work carried out by some YAG members which won't have been captured in the 'actual spend' due to it being paid for via a business unit other than MYD. The 'actual spend' does not include the salaries of MYD staff that support the YAG with facilitation and/or administration.

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

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

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services