



15 September 2023

Jessie Barwick
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Tēnā koe Jessie Barwick

On 7 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Any decision-making tools (for example, frameworks or matrices) used by the Ministry to determine the rate of funding per employment outcome when contracting third parties to deliver youth employment placements.*
- *A list of the contracts awarded to third parties (we do not require the names of the organisations) to undertake youth employment placements for each of the last four financial years that includes:*
 - *Payment per employment outcome;*
 - *Whether the contract specified a single upfront payment for each employment outcome or whether the contract also awarded milestone payments (after the person placed remained in work for a set period of time), and the value of these payments.*
- *Any reports produced or relied on by the Ministry that highlight the long-term benefits of youth employment placement programmes and/or the success of them in terms of the number of youth employment outcomes achieved and the employment longevity of youth placed in roles.*

On 4 September 2023, the Ministry emailed you to advise that your request is granted in part. I sincerely apologise that the Ministry's response letter was not provided to you on 12 September 2023.

I will first outline number of services that the Ministry offers for young people to help them improve their skills, through education, training, work and other related activities. For further information on support and services we can provide, please find the following link:
www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/16-19-year-olds/index.html

We also offer a range of services for people looking for work. These work services are not specifically targeted to youth but are available to them should

they want to use them. For more information on the Ministry's work services, please find the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/index.html

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

The Ministry's Industry Partnerships have had a strategic partnership with Local Government NZ to deliver employment programmes with Mayors Taskforce for Jobs since 2020, and in that time have placed more than 5000 predominately young people into work.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide network of New Zealand's Mayors, working together towards the vision of all young people 16-25 engaged in employment, education, training, or other positive activity in their communities. It is a membership organisation that currently has membership from 100% of New Zealand's Mayors and is led by a Core Group of Mayors. It has a number of partnerships to deliver opportunities to rangatahi.

Our F24 contract with LGNZ to deliver the MTFJ Community Employment Programme is valued at \$10,000,000.00 to deliver 1,111 employment outcomes for predominantly NEETs and youth, aligned with the mission of the taskforce, across rural and provincial councils. While each of the 33 programmes looks slightly different to service local needs, the goal is to deliver work readiness skills (like CVs, interview skills and support with self-awareness and self-confidence), pre-employment and on the job training, employment placement, personalised pastoral care, financial literacy, support with driver licencing and access to vehicles, apprenticeship support, whānau support, health and wellbeing programmes and help with the costs associated with starting work, not otherwise delivered by MSD. The programme also supports businesses to develop robust, person-centric ways to support a sustainable outcome, and funds programme coordinators and pastoral care leads by Council (varies by Council).

In F23, the programme was contracted to deliver 1,450 employment outcomes and delivered 1,706. 368 of these were apprenticeships.

Skills for Industry

Skills for Industry programmes provide short-term job-focused training to prepare clients who require up-skilling for specific requirements identified by industry. The programmes are short to medium term and tailored to job-specific requirements for particular vacancies. Training can be offered as pre-employment or in-work training and can be delivered by providers or employers. The youth participation on Skills for Industry Programmes is 26% (operational reporting).

We've worked with organisations around New Zealand to bring a range of online programmes to our clients and job seekers. They're free, most of them are online, and can be done at home at your own pace. There are training courses which can help people learn valuable skills for a job and get qualified – including young people.

Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

The Ministry of Social Development also hosts the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi. MYD provides funding for a range of programmes that support young people across Aotearoa New Zealand. In the 2022/2023 financial year, MYD supported 161 providers to deliver around 82,000 youth development opportunities. While these opportunities are not linked to Youth Employment Placements, they support an increase in the wellbeing of young people across Aotearoa New Zealand, aged 12 to 24 years, so that they are better able to succeed in, contribute to and enjoy life.

An example of programmes funded by MYD include those supported by MYD's Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (the Ākonga Fund). Currently, the Ākonga Fund supports 27 community-based providers to support at-risk learners, aged 12 to 21 years, to strengthen their resilience and re-engage with their communities. Since 2020, 5,479 (86%) ākonga who exited a programme achieved an education, training, or employment outcome. You may be interested in the recent evaluation of the Ākonga Fund, which is available on MYD's Website (<https://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/akonga-youth-development-community-fund.html>).

I will now respond to your requests in turn.

- *Any decision-making tools (for example, frameworks or matrices) used by the Ministry to determine the rate of funding per employment outcome when contracting third parties to deliver youth employment placements.*

When contracting third parties, the Ministry utilises the best practice methodology from New Zealand Government Procurement templates to assess tendered prices. You can find the link to the RFP template, which outlines the various approaches to price evaluation on page 13 in the following link:

[view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.procurement.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fprocurement-property%2Fdocuments%2Ftemplates%2Frfp-template-government-model.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://www.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.procurement.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fprocurement-property%2Fdocuments%2Ftemplates%2Frfp-template-government-model.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

The Ministry does not have decision-making tools, framework or matrixes used to determine the rate of funding per employment outcome. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have 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.

In the spirit of being helpful, the Ministry is providing you with the publicly available link to the Employment Assistance Evidence Catalogue the following

link: <https://ea.analytics.msd.govt.nz/>. The Ministry uses this for research purposes.

- *A list of the contracts awarded to third parties (we do not require the names of the organisations) to undertake youth employment placements for each of the last four financial years that includes:*
 - *Payment per employment outcome;*
 - *Whether the contract specified a single upfront payment for each employment outcome or whether the contract also awarded milestone payments (after the person placed remained in work for a set period of time), and the value of these payments.*

The Ministry does not have employment as an outcome for our Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment clients. However, the Ministry has the 'Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) programme, and has contracted providers who deliver it, but they do not provide employment placements.

- Youth Service is delivered by 47 community organisations, Iwi/Māori, and private training institutions nationally to deliver our service. We also have two in-house teams based in Wellington and Whanganui.
 - Our youth coaches provide intensive, tailored support so taiohi identify their goals and find their best path to reach them.
 - Youth coaches support their taiohi in the ways they most need - whether that's giving practical help with housing issues, preparing for job interviews or connecting with local support groups.
 - Youth Service supports young people to gain an education qualification. This will improve the young person's work prospects and will support them into long term sustainable employment
 - Youth Service also supports young people with building their employability skills, helping them to gain the skills and qualifications to find a job and have an independent future.
- Youth coaches work with three target groups:
 - recipients of Youth Payment, for young people aged 16 or 17 who can't live with their parents or guardians;
 - recipients of Young Parent Payment, for young people aged 16-19 who are the main caregiver for a child; and
 - 16-17-year-olds who are either not in education, training, or employment, or are at risk of dropping out, and need the most support.
- The Youth Service for young people NEET aims to help eligible 15 to 17-year-olds into education, training or work-based learning, so they gain the skills to find a job, improve their well-being, and reduce their risk of long-term benefit dependency.

- Youth Service NEET delivers in-work support up to 182 days to ensure the young person is well supported in employment and they have all the support they need to remain in employment.

Youth Services' contract for Youth Service NEET provides a milestone payment to contracted providers when a young person is in fulltime sustainable employment as noted (below):

- \$200.00 (one-off employment placement fee) paid after 31 days
- \$400.00 (employment milestone completion of 182 days)

You can find more information on the NEET programme at the following link: www.youthservice.govt.nz/education-and-work/neet/.

- *Any reports produced or relied on by the Ministry that highlight the long-term benefits of youth employment placement programmes and/or the success of them in terms of the number of youth employment outcomes achieved and the employment longevity of youth placed in roles.*

You can find this publicly available information through the Long-term insights briefing, at the following link: msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/long-term-insights-briefing/long-term-insights-briefing-about-preparing-all-young-people-for-satisfying-and-rewarding-working-lives.html.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response regarding youth employment placements and outcomes, 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 blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal tail.

George Van Ooyen
Group General Manager
Client Service Support