



15 MAY 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 22 March 2019, the Ministry of Education transferred your request, under the Official Information Act 1982, for information regarding the Place-Based Initiatives in Northland, South Auckland, and Gisborne.

Place-Based Initiatives were established to bring local leaders together to address social issues and improve outcomes for children and young people and their family/whānau. They work in partnership with agencies and have a governance group, consisting of representatives from social agencies, iwi, and the community, as well as an independent chair to facilitate their decision-making. The exact membership is decided by each local group.

The following areas were identified based on the number and proportion of at-risk 0-24 year olds and their family/whānau in each location.

- Kāinga Ora (Northland)
- South Auckland
- Manaaki Tairāwhiti (Gisborne/Wairoa).

For the sake of clarity, I will address each of your requests in turn.

Are the initiatives still running?

In December 2018, Cabinet agreed to fund the continued operation of the South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board (based in South Auckland) and Manaaki Tairāwhiti (based in Gisborne). Kāinga Ora, based in Northland, however, was ceased. Responsibility for those Kāinga Ora, activities that are to be retained is presently being transferred to the appropriate agencies, with the transition process to be completed by the middle of 2019.

*Please provide the most recent evaluation report(s) for these programmes
Please provide an overview of outcomes for these children*

No evaluation reports have been produced in relation to the Place-Based Initiatives. The programmes are monitored as part of day-to-day good practice and a full evaluation of the model and effectiveness of the approach was commissioned following Cabinet decisions in December 2018. The evaluation team began work in March 2019 and the full evaluation is expected to be complete around March 2020. An overview of the outcomes for the participants will be an element of the evaluation.

As such, your request for the most recent evaluation reports and outcomes for these programmes is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

Please provide figures on how many vulnerable children were identified by each of the initiatives

The South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board (SASWB) targeted approximately 1,300 0-5 year olds in Mangere classified as at-risk. The SASWB's area of operation was originally limited to Mangere, although elements of these have since expanded into other areas of South Auckland.

Kāinga Ora focused on an estimated 570 at-risk children and young people in three locations across Northland: Otangarei, Kaikoe, and Kaitaia.

In contrast to SASWB and Kāinga Ora, Manaaki Tairāwhiti did not begin operation with a particular target population or volume. The initiative aimed to leverage pre-existing high levels of collaboration across Tairāwhiti. Starting with 50 at-risk, hard to engage families, the initiative aims to leverage increased cooperation between social service providers to achieve better outcomes.

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 shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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, 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.

Yours sincerely



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