



26 January 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2024, requesting information on the total number of families who applied for the Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Subsidy throughout 2023, including applications for before and after school care, holiday programmes, and camps.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on set out below.

Could you please provide the total number of families who applied for the OSCAR Subsidy throughout last year, spanning from January to December 2023, include applications for before and after school care, holiday programmes, and camps.

In 2023, did the OSCAR subsidy application numbers increase compared to 2022?

I refer you to **Appendix one** which provides **Table one:** Number of OSCAR applications processed and the number of clients in the period 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.

You will note that in 2023 there was an increase in the number of applications and number of clients from 2022.

Please note that to protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding where values have been randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3. This is applied to all cell counts in the table. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

If so, could you clarify whether this increase can be attributed to the rising cost of living?

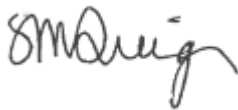
I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested would require the Ministry to venture an opinion, and we do not hold any information that has undertaken that kind of analysis. Further, I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by, or closely connected to, the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services