



26 August 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2025 that was transferred from the office of the Minister for Youth to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), within which the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) is a business unit. You have requested information about youth funding and strategy implementation, including evaluations.

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: Youth Development Funding (2019–2025) Please provide, by calendar year: Total funding allocated to youth development initiatives Breakdown by multi-year grants, one-off contracts, and outcome-based funding Number of applications received and approved in each category Average grant size and duration.*

In order to provide all information in scope of this question, the Ministry would need to search through multiple manually stored records. Providing this information across a seven-year period would have an unreasonable impact on other business operations. Therefore some information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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 have provided the following documents:

The total funding allocated to youth development initiatives per year can be found in the Ministry of Social Development Annual Reports or the Vote Social Development Estimates, both of which are published annually:

- 2024/25: refer page 327 'Delivering Youth Development':  
[www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/estimates/v9/est25-v9-socdev.pdf](http://www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/estimates/v9/est25-v9-socdev.pdf)

- 2023/24: refer page 139 'Delivering Youth Development' [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2024/msd-annual-report-2024.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2024/msd-annual-report-2024.pdf)
- 2022/2023: refer page 132 'Delivering Youth Development' [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2023/msd-annual-report-2023.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2023/msd-annual-report-2023.pdf)
- 2021/2022: refer page 217 'Delivering Youth Development' [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2022/annual-report-2021-2022.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2022/annual-report-2021-2022.pdf)
- 2020/2021: refer page 71 'Delivering Youth Development' [annualreport2021.msd.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/documents/Performance-financial-statements-and-appendices.pdf](http://annualreport2021.msd.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/documents/Performance-financial-statements-and-appendices.pdf)
- 2019/2020: refer page 237 'Delivering Youth Development' [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2019-2020/msd-2019-20-annual-report.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2019-2020/msd-2019-20-annual-report.pdf)
- 2018/2019: refer page 152 'Increasing Youth Development Opportunities' [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2019/annual-report-2018-19.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2019/annual-report-2018-19.pdf)

The following tables are publicly available on the MYD website, which display funding allocated to youth development organisations from 2021/2022:

- [www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-my-d-funding-table.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-my-d-funding-table.pdf)
- [www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f22-funding/myd-funding.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f22-funding/myd-funding.pdf)
- [www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-akonga-youth-development-community-fund-table.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/2023-procurement/final-akonga-youth-development-community-fund-table.pdf)
- [www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f26-funding/2025-2026-youth-enterprise-providers.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/funding/f26-funding/2025-2026-youth-enterprise-providers.pdf).

Please see **Appendix One** which provides a table that documents the total number of applications received to MYD's Open Tender funding rounds from 2018 to 16 June 2025. Please note some of this information was collated prior to 2023 and it may be an incomplete record of all Open Tender procurements undertaken over the requested time period.

*Question 2: Funding Policies. Please provide copies of relevant policies or guidelines specifying: Eligibility criteria for youth-led organisations Whether administrative, infrastructure, or wellbeing costs are eligible for support.*

MYD will spend \$14.599 million in 2025/26 on a wide range of youth development and youth enterprise initiatives. MYD funds organisations that employ a youth development approach which supports the wellbeing of young people (aged 12 to 24 years) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

MYD adheres to the 'Government Rules of Sourcing' when purchasing outcomes/contracting with providers. Please visit the New Zealand Government Procurement website for more information: [www.procurement.govt.nz/](http://www.procurement.govt.nz/).

Funding opportunities are made publicly available via the MYD website and the Government Electronic Tender Service (known as GETS). As the different funding stream opportunities are published, they include the eligibility criteria for interested parties.

There are no policies or guidelines specifically related to “eligibility criteria for youth-led organisations, whether administrative, infrastructure, or wellbeing costs are eligible for support”, therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

*Question 3: Reviews and Risk Assessments. Please provide internal reviews or reports from 2019–2025 that assess: The adequacy of funding for youth-led initiatives The impact of funding on outcomes for youth-led organisations Any identified risks such as burnout, underpayment, or lack of support infrastructure.*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

*Question 4: Funding Model Decision-Making. Please provide documentation that explains: Why one-off funding is used instead of multi-year models Restrictions on infrastructure and wellbeing funding Whether youth organisations are assessed differently to other applicants.*

The majority of MYD’s funds are allocated through multi-year contracts with service providers. Grants are used on a case-by-case basis. When applicants apply for funding through different funds, the criteria and what is in scope of the funding is clear. You may also be interested in the Minister for Youth’s response to Written Parliamentary Question 29006 (2025): [questions.parliament.nz/written-questions/question/WQ\\_29006\\_2025](https://questions.parliament.nz/written-questions/question/WQ_29006_2025).

*Question 5: Youth Consultant Engagement. For youth aged 12–24 engaged as consultants, advisors, or contractors between 2018 and 2025, please provide: Number engaged per year, Payment rates and total remuneration, Contract types used (e.g., fixed-term, project-based) Safeguarding or wellbeing policies used Any internal evaluations of youth consultant programmes, specifically of The Hive A copy of any standard contracts or engagement templates.*

MYD has engaged a range of young people within the time period requested and this information is not centrally recorded / stored. Your request for this information is very broad, and 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, MYD notes it has a Youth Advisory Group which was established in 2022. MYD publishes the names of its Youth Advisory Group members on its website, and you can view the 2024/25 members here: [www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-voice.html](https://www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-voice.html). Up until 2021, MYD administered a Partnership Fund

Board that included young people. MYD's Youth Advisory Group members and Partnership Fund Board members are/were paid in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework, which can be viewed here: [www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/co-22-2-revised-fees-framework-members-appointed-bodies-which-crown-has-interest#revised-fees-framework-for-members-appointed-to-bodies-in-which-the-crown-has-an-interest](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/co-22-2-revised-fees-framework-members-appointed-bodies-which-crown-has-interest#revised-fees-framework-for-members-appointed-to-bodies-in-which-the-crown-has-an-interest).

*Question 6. Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. Please provide: Any documents, briefings, or evaluations showing how the Strategy supported (or failed to support) youth-led or youth-engaged initiatives How the Strategy influenced youth funding or engagement decisions Evidence of outcomes, implementation challenges, or resource gaps for youth-led mahi under this Strategy.*

This part of your request is very broad, and 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.

*Question 7: Monitoring and Evaluation. Please provide: Any monitoring, audit, or evaluation reports about the delivery of youth engagement programmes or youth-led funding outcomes.*

On 14 July 2025, the Ministry contacted you seeking a refinement to this part of your request as without refinement it would likely be refused as it would require substantial manual collation to locate and compile all information in scope. To date, we have not received a response from you.

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.

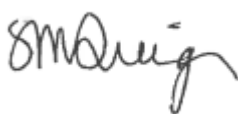
I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

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Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**

**Appendix One:** The total number of applications received to MYD's Open Tender funding rounds from 2018 to 16 June 2025.

| MYD Funding Round<br>(By financial year)                                                                                                                                                    | Total #<br>Applications<br>Received | Total Successful Providers                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F19: Youth Development Programmes and Services, Youth Development Opportunity for Young People, Youth Enterprise Programmes and Services, and Youth Enterprise Opportunity for Young People | 292                                 | 77                                                                                                              |
| F20 (Youth Development)                                                                                                                                                                     | 280                                 | 71                                                                                                              |
| F20 (Youth Enterprise and Entrepreneurship)                                                                                                                                                 | 170                                 | 18                                                                                                              |
| Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (2021)                                                                                                                                              | 89                                  | 23 (note – an additional five providers were selected through selective procurement, prior to the open tender). |
| F23: Youth Development Opportunities, Youth Enterprise Programmes, [Youth Development] Full-Time Equivalent Youth Worker/Practitioner Pilot                                                 | 191                                 | 79                                                                                                              |
| Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (2024)                                                                                                                                              | 254                                 | 31                                                                                                              |
| F26: Youth Enterprise<br>Introduction to Enterprise Fund                                                                                                                                    | 63                                  | 1                                                                                                               |
| F26: Youth Enterprise<br>Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund                                                                                                                              | 52                                  | 10                                                                                                              |
| F26 Youth Enterprise<br>Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund                                                                                                                                | 19                                  | 1                                                                                                               |
| F26 Youth Development Contributory Fund                                                                                                                                                     | 117                                 | Final number not known – contract negotiations underway at the time that your request was received.             |
| F26 Youth Development Place-Based Fund                                                                                                                                                      | 180                                 | Final number not known – contract negotiations underway                                                         |

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|--|--|---------------------------------------------|
|  |  | at the time that your request was received. |
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\*Some of this information was collated prior to 2023 and it may be an incomplete record of all Open Tender procurements undertaken over the requested time period.