



12 June 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2025, requesting information about on participation of clients in the Youth Service Not in Education, Employment or Training (Youth Service NEET).

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

The Youth Service NEET is a voluntary program designed to support young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) or are at risk of becoming NEET. Its aim is to help young people re-engage in education, achieve qualifications, and transition into further education or employment. A young person is not required to take part in the service and once they are enrolled can stop participating in the service at any time. Generally, the Youth Service NEET is for 16- or 17-year-olds who are not in school, training, or work, or are at school or training but are at risk of dropping out. 15-year-olds can also participate if they have left school with an early leaving exemption. More information about the Youth Service NEET can be found here on the youth service website: <https://www.youthservice.govt.nz/education-and-work/neet>

Youth Service NEET is delivered across New Zealand by 'Youth Service providers' who are a mixture of community organisations, iwi/Māori, private training institutions and two Ministry of Social Development sites based in Wellington and Whanganui.

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** for the number of Youth Service NEET recipients enrolled with a provider as at end of each month from April 2024 to March 2025. Please note that the reduction in enrolments is due to the conclusion of time limited funding.

Your request for information regarding time spent as a Youth Service NEET recipient 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 client 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.

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

pp.



Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services