



20 January 2026

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 3 December 2025, requesting information about ADHD held by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD), from January 2015 to December 2025. You requested:

- 1. Policy and Advice - Any policy documents, strategy papers, briefings, or advice since 2015 that refer to ADHD or broader neurodiversity in relation to youth development, wellbeing, participation, or equity. If none exist, please confirm this.*
- 2. Research, Funding, and Youth-Voice Inputs - Any research, funding rounds, community projects, or youth advisory group inputs since 2015 that have included ADHD as a topic or identified ADHD as a barrier to youth participation. If none exist, please confirm this.*
- 3. Public-Facing Materials - Any public-facing resources, campaigns, guidance, or youth-awareness materials since 2015 that mention ADHD, including any broader disability or neurodiversity materials where ADHD is specifically referenced. If none exist, please confirm this.*
- 4. Monitoring and Evaluation Any evaluation or monitoring frameworks that include ADHD, including any broader disability or neurodiversity indicators where ADHD is specifically referenced, within MYD's reporting. If none exist, please confirm this.*
- 5. Categorisation - If ADHD-specific work is not held, please confirm and indicate whether ADHD is considered under broader categories such as mental health, disability, youth equity, or NEET risk factors. If MYD does not hold some or all of the information requested, that absence itself helps clarify how ADHD is currently recognised within the youth policy system. If MYD does not hold some or all of the information requested, that absence itself helps clarify how ADHD is currently recognised within the youth policy system. Identifying such gaps is part of building the evidence base for a coordinated response.*

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 below.

Please find refer to the following links where publicly available information partly addresses your requests 1-4.

- Report: Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund Evaluation Framework and Youth Development Opportunities: [www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Funding/final-akonga-fund-evaluation-report-08-june-2023-compressed-compressed2.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Funding/final-akonga-fund-evaluation-report-08-june-2023-compressed-compressed2.pdf)

This report is an evaluation of MYD's Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund in June 2023 prepared by Big River Creative, an independent consultant. The report includes discussion on provider support/programme accessibility for ākonga with disabilities including neurodiverse young people, among discussing disabled young people more broadly as a cohort.

- Appendix One: Actions Tracker: Youth Plan 12-Month Review: [www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Youth-Plan/Phase-One-Review-of-the-Youth-Plan-Proactive-Release/appendix-7-youth-plan-actions-tracker-12-month-progress-report.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Youth-Plan/Phase-One-Review-of-the-Youth-Plan-Proactive-Release/appendix-7-youth-plan-actions-tracker-12-month-progress-report.pdf).

This document was attached to an October 2022 MYD report to the Minister for Youth, entitled, *Phase One Report back on the Review of the Youth Plan*. It references a Youth Plan action – Design and implement the 'Hear Me, See Me' campaign, which spotlighted the work of several community groups, one of these being ADHD New Zealand.

- Gathering voices: a review of the literature supporting the refreshed Youth Plan: [www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Youth-Plan/Phase-Two-Refresh-Proactive-Release/Gathering-Voices-a-review-of-the-literature-supporting-the-refreshed-Youth-Plan.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/assets/documents/Youth-Plan/Phase-Two-Refresh-Proactive-Release/Gathering-Voices-a-review-of-the-literature-supporting-the-refreshed-Youth-Plan.pdf).

This document was a literature review completed as part of MYD's Youth Plan refresh in 2022/23. The review references neurodiversity as a factor influencing the wellbeing of young people – noting neurodivergent young people are more likely to report being treated as adults and placed under higher expectations than their peers of a similar age

To answer the rest of Question 1, the information you seek cannot be reported to the level of detail you require and accordingly, this 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.

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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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written in a cursive style.

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