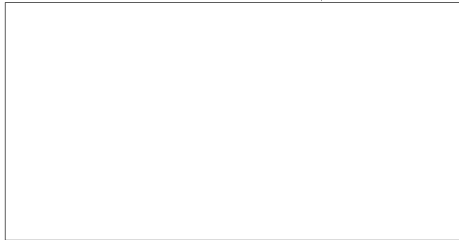




10 AUG 2016



On 12 July 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the average cost of carrying out a Gateway Assessment.

Children who come into Child, Youth and Family care are some of New Zealand's most vulnerable children. Many have a combination of health and education difficulties that have gone unidentified or untreated prior to them coming into Child, Youth and Family's care. As a result of their backgrounds, children who come into care are often disconnected from regular health and education services, and are more likely to have physical, behavioural, and emotional barriers to overcome. Often the complexity of the problems means that no single agency is able to provide the full package of care and services required.

Gateway Assessments aim to ensure every child or young person entering care receives an assessment that helps build a complete picture of the child or young person's needs, and sees that they get access to the right health and education services to address their needs. The health assessment is usually undertaken by a paediatrician or youth health specialist. Teachers from the child or young person's school or early childhood education centre also provide a profile of their education engagement and achievement.

Gateway Assessments are available to:

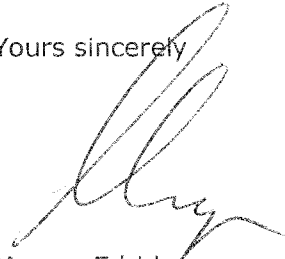
- every child or young person entering care
- children and young people already in care, to help identify ways to address their health and behavioural needs
- children and young people who are being referred for a Family Group Conference where it would help clarify and identify ways to address their needs.

I can advise that the total cost to the Ministry of Social Development for each Gateway Assessment is \$975. This is a standard cost that the Ministry pays for every Gateway Assessment.

I hope you find this information regarding Gateway Assessments helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Edridge', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Murray Edridge
Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family