



18 FEB 2020



Dear 

On 1 February 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What is the funding budget of the Office of Disability Issues?*
- *What is the funding budget of the Disability People's Organisations?*
- *What is the funding budget of the IMM?*

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) has an appropriation from the Government of \$6.059 million for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Within this budget, ODI allocates a sum of money to the Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) Coalition so they have funding to run their meetings and operate as a Coalition. In the 2018/2019 financial year (the last full financial year) \$252,494 was provided to the DPO Coalition from the ODI budget. This funding covers the following costs:

- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreting costs for meetings
- meeting venue costs
- meeting fees
- travel and accommodation for those travelling to meetings.

The Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) does not have a discrete budget. The following three organisations work together as the IMM: representatives from the DPO Coalition, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Human Rights Commission. The funding for these organisations to meet as the IMM is managed within their respective budgets.

You have also asked about the involvement of the Office for Disability Issues in relation to the proposed closure of the Laura Fergusson Trust in Auckland.

This is an issue that is under discussion between the Trust as the provider of services and the Ministry of Health as one of the funders of the services provided by the Laura Fergusson Trust.

ODI's role is to provide advice on disability issues when requested by government agencies, as advisors to the Minister for Disability Issues; to lead and co-ordinate the Government's reporting on implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; to provide programme and secretariat support to

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the New Zealand Sign Language Board; to ensure effective representation of the voice of disabled people through their representative organisations to government agencies; and importantly, to take an across government lead on the development and implementation of the New Zealand Disability Strategy and Action Plan.

There are many important actors and contributors, both within government and outside of government, to progressing the rights and opportunities of disabled people in Aotearoa. ODI is but one of those actors and importantly focuses on its unique contribution.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response regarding ODI, DPO, and IMM funding, 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.

Yours sincerely



Brian Coffey  
**Director Office for Disability Issues**