



28 OCT 2020

Dear

On 2 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *There are significant budgets voted to MSD for deployment in regard to COVID-19 Recovery. Please advise by way of each line item funded how much is voted to the Tāmaki Makaurau Region.*
- *Can you then advise how and why you intend to distribute those funds, noting Māori have a Constitutional right but just as importantly a needs basis for a to Māori by Māori for Māori direct funded deployment.*

I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

The Ministry received significant funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to support both employment and social services during the response and recovery phases of COVID-19. A line by line breakdown of funding appropriated to Vote Social Development COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and the allocation of this funding is attached in Appendix One and Appendix Two.

The Ministry has not allocated all funding to date and, therefore, in some cases cannot specify whether specific funding was allocated to Auckland. Where this applies, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

The Ministry is unable to break down some of the initiatives by region (Auckland). This is because these initiatives provide funding for national providers or projects, or some providers may be based in Auckland but deliver a nationwide service. Where this applies, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. You will also note that some of this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Regarding the majority of the initiatives in scope of your request, the Ministry is unable to advise how and why the funding is allocated to support Māori, as most initiatives support the general population, irrespective of ethnicity. Where this applies, the request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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
- 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the budgets voted to the Ministry of Social Development for deployment in regard to COVID-19 Recovery, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Frew', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Frew
General Manager
Organisational Planning, Performance and Governance

Appendix One

Allocation of COVID Response and Recovery Funding for social services

Note: Please note all data (including funding amounts) quoted are effective at 18 September 2020. Funding is subject to contracting and may change through the financial year.

Initiative	Funding allocation
<p>Up to \$16 million to bolster essential services so they keep supporting at-risk individuals, families, whānau and communities and can respond to increased demand (this includes for family and sexual violence services).</p> <p>More information on this funding can be found on the Ministry's website – www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/27m-covid-19-boost-for-some-essential-social-services.html</p>	<p>\$12 million over two years for Ministry-funded providers of specialist family violence and sexual violence crisis response services (including providers of elder abuse response services). This funding has been allocated as grants as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women's refuges received \$40,000 each • sexual violence crisis support services received \$50,986 each • other family violence crisis support and elder abuse response service providers received \$15,000 each. <p>The total amount allocated to date is \$6.9 million. Of this, \$1.6 million was allocated to providers based in Auckland.</p> <p>\$1.5 million available through E Tū Whānau in 2019/20 for community groups supporting Māori, ethnic, migrant and hard to reach communities to implement locally led solutions which respond to COVID-19. This funding was distributed as grants to community groups across New Zealand supporting Māori, ethnic, migrant and hard to reach communities. A total of 61 community groups received funding nationally. Of these, 30 were utilising the funding to support Māori. 15 of the community groups that received funding were Auckland-based. These groups received total funding of \$0.257 million.</p> <p>\$0.8 million available through Pasefika Proud in 2019/20 for community groups supporting Pacific communities to implement locally led solutions which respond to COVID-19. This funding was distributed as grants to Pacific providers to respond to immediate need, and increased demand for Pacific families and communities. Four of the seven providers were Auckland-based and primarily focused their support to the Auckland region. These groups received total funding of \$0.667 million.</p>

	<p>\$0.5 million over two years was allocated to the MoneyTalks helpline to increase staff numbers and hours of operation to provide services over the phone in recognition of growing demand for financial capability services as a result of the economic downturn. As MoneyTalks is a national helpline, there was no funding allocated specifically to Auckland. More information on MoneyTalks can be found on their website - www.moneytalks.co.nz</p>
<p>Services for disabled people</p>	<p>\$6 million over two years was allocated to support disability providers to ensure disabled people stay supported during the lockdown and periods of self-isolation, limiting the impacts of anxiety and loneliness.</p> <p>The \$3 million available for allocation in 2019/2020 was initially made available to Ministry funded providers of Very High Needs or Community Participation (High Needs) services, then applications were opened to all providers supporting disabled people including people with health and mental health conditions.</p> <p>68 Ministry funded providers received grants totalling \$1.65 million from this funding allocation. 16 providers have their head offices in Auckland but deliver services nationally. These providers received a total of \$346,500.</p> <p>Providers not funded by the Ministry received a total of \$1.35 million in grants. Many of these organisations are based in or deliver services in Auckland.</p> <p>Note: a large number of providers have head offices outside of Auckland but deliver services in Auckland.</p> <p>The \$3 million available for allocation in 2020/2021 will provide seed funding for digital apps, online platforms and programmes that support disabled people to be independent and stay connected when they are unable or choose not to attend group based vocational services. A registration of interest process is underway to select projects. Funding will be allocated at the conclusion of this process.</p> <p>More information on this funding can be found on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/essential-services-for-disabled-people.html</p>

Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant Fund	<p>Initially, the Ministry had \$4.8 million over two years to support the implementation of locally led solutions to assisting communities in response to COVID-19 through the Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant Fund.</p> <p>Funding was allocated through an open application process with approaches supporting Māori, Pacific, older people, people with disabilities, people with current significant health considerations, people who are rurally isolated being given priority and ethnic/migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p> <p>As need for this type of support proved much higher than anticipated, the Ministry ended up allocating a total of \$7.4 million to support community groups nationally. \$2.78 million of this funding went to organisations or community groups supporting Māori, and 404 grants totalling \$2.3 million were paid to Auckland-based organisations or community groups.</p> <p>More information on this funding can be found on the Ministry's website – www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/community-awareness-and-preparedness-grant-fund.html</p>
Childcare support for essential workers ¹	<p>On 3 April 2020, Cabinet approved \$6.76 million (over two years) to support essential workers to continue working through the nationwide lockdown by reducing childcare barriers. All accredited OSCAR providers nation-wide were offered the opportunity to deliver in-home childcare for essential workers. Funding was provided subject to provider availability.</p> <p>Over the lockdown period of 26 March 2020 – 8 May 2020, \$2.28 million was allocated to 62 providers that took up this opportunity. Of these, twelve Auckland-based providers received total funding of \$0.078 million. A further \$0.698 million was paid to eleven national providers who delivered services nationally, including in Auckland.</p>
Community Connection service	<p>\$41.25 million over two years for the Community Connection service which takes an active approach to ensuring people and whānau are able to access the support and services they need to enhance health and wellbeing. The service sees the positioning of Community Connector roles across Aotearoa to complement and boost existing services where extra help</p>

¹ This funding was not included in the \$27 million NGO and community support package announced on 26 March 2020

	<p>may be needed to support people and whānau or where service 'gaps' may have been identified.</p> <p>\$33.6 million over two years of this is funding a total of 140 Community Connector positions nationally. 27 of these positions will have a focus on supporting Māori. 38 positions have been allocated to support the Auckland region totalling \$9.12 million. This includes 12 positions which will support Managed Isolation Facilities.</p> <p>The remaining \$7.65 million over two years has been set aside as discretionary funding. This funding will be available to providers delivering the Community Connection Service to draw on for the benefit of the people and whānau they are supporting. This funding must only be accessed when all other options of financial support, including W&I support services, have been exhausted and existing policies, initiatives, services, or funding does not provide the necessary support needed. Decisions as to when the funding is used will be at the discretion of the provider delivering the Community Connection Service in consultation with the person or whānau they are supporting.</p>
<p>Community Capability and Resilience Fund</p>	<p>\$36 million over two years for the Community Capability and Resilience Fund which will provide grant funding to support communities as they rebuild and recover from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Community Capability and Resilience Fund opened on 1 August 2020. Priority groups for this funding are Māori, Pacific, ethnic and migrant communities, and culturally and linguistically diverse populations, it is proposed that 50 percent of this funding will be targeted towards uplifting Māori social and economic wellbeing).</p> <p>As at 18 September 2020, a total of \$5.172 million has been distributed to 50 organisations nationally. Of this, \$2.1 million has been allocated to support Māori and \$3.2 million has been allocated to 240 Auckland-based organisations.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-investing-in-the-resilience-and-recovery-of-communities.pdf and www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/community-capability-and-resilience-fund/index.html</p>

<p>Food Secure Communities</p>	<p>\$32 million over three years (2019/2020 – 2021/2022) will support foodbanks, food rescue and other community food services to meet the increased demand on services and to plan for longer-term food security in the communities.</p> <p>To support food secure communities, we are contracting three national partner organisations (New Zealand Food Network, Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger Collective and Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance) to build sector capacity and capability, and to increase the supply of high-quality surplus food available to foodbanks and community food services. Total funding to these organisations is \$6.86 million over two years.</p> <p>In addition to contracting these three organisations, the Ministry also provided three grant funding opportunities. All three funding pools were allocated following an open application process. Criteria for each funding pool are outlined on the Ministry’s website.</p> <p>Across these three funding pools a total of \$8.52 million over two years has been allocated to organisations based in Auckland.</p> <p>Decisions regarding the allocation of these funding pools were made by a panel which assessed applications received. The panel assessed the extent to which the application met the funding criteria and then sense checked this against an allocation model which estimated the level of local need using criteria such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation, hardship grants for food, beneficiaries, etc.</p> <p>More information on this funding can be found on the Ministry’s website – www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-ensuring-food-secure-communities.pdf and www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/index.html</p>
<p>Building Financial Capability</p>	<p>The Ministry received \$25.2 million over two years to support Building Financial Capability (BFC) services to meet the increase in demand expected in the economic downturn from COVID-19.</p> <p>To allocate funding to providers delivering financial mentoring, MoneyMates and BFC Plus, an allocation model was developed to indicate relative need across regions in 2020/2021. Indicators in the model include the proportion of the population who are Māori, relative poverty and other hardship and population-based indicators.</p>

	<p>The \$11.402 million available for allocation in 2020/2021 has been split to support workforce development, service sustainability through a rate increase, and increased demand for services. Of this funding, \$3.752 million has been allocated to 28 Auckland-based providers delivering financial mentoring, MoneyMates and BFC Plus services. \$0.495 million for demand for Microfinance services in 2020/21 is also allocated to Auckland-based providers, which deliver support nationally.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-boosting-building-financial-capability.pdf</p>
<p>Building Provider Capability and Resilience Fund</p>	<p>\$22 million over two years for the Building Provider Capability and Resilience Fund which focuses on resourcing existing MSD community-based service providers to strengthen their organisational capability to enable them to better respond to the needs of their communities.</p> <p>This funding will be focused towards uplifting the organisational capability of Ministry funded community-based service providers. Priority will be given to supporting Māori, Pacific and ethnic/migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p> <p>The Ministry is currently identifying providers who may benefit from this funding.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-investing-in-the-resilience-and-recovery-of-providers.pdf</p>
<p>Building Māori partnerships</p>	<p>To give effect to the Treaty settlement commitments and partnership agreements the Ministry leads on behalf of the Crown, \$10 million over two years has been appropriated to the Ministry to support whānau and respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19 on communities.</p> <p>This funding will support existing jointly-agreed work programmes with Te Hiku and Tūhoe as active and committed treaty partnerships which the Ministry leads on behalf of the Crown. Specifically, it provides for the continuation of the Te Hiku Iwi – Crown Joint Work Programme and implementation of the Tūhoe Service Management Plan. Both Te Hiku and Tūhoe have repositioned their work to respond to COVID-19 and the recovery phase for their whānau.</p>

	<p>Given the focus of this funding and positioning of these Iwi, this funding does not support service delivery in the Auckland region.</p>
<p>Specialist family violence</p>	<p>\$8.6 million over two years to support Ministry funded specialist family violence services to meet additional demand and prepare for the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on communities. The allocation of this funding is based on demand analysis and regional engagement. This approach enables the Ministry to provide flexible support where it is most needed. Need is being assessed through regular check points throughout the year. Applications for the first round of funding closed on 18 September.</p> <p>Of the 44 applications received from this first round, 27 were from Auckland-based providers. Approximately \$1.5 million has been requested for Auckland region to support a wide range of services which respond to the increased demand across the family violence sector. The level of funding allocated to applicants is still to be decided.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-responding-to-increased-demand-family-violence-services.pdf</p>
<p>Employment support for disabled people</p>	<p>\$12.5 million over two years to expand and strengthen the Employment Service, an employment support service for disabled people. \$10 million will be contracted to providers currently funded by the Ministry to deliver the Employment Service. The allocation of this funding across current providers is yet to be determined.</p> <p>The remaining \$2.5 million is being used to pilot the Employment Service in Schools. The pilot will support young disabled people in their final two years to consider employment as their first and best option when they leave school. The pilot will run in five Ministry of Education regions, including Auckland, from term 1/2021. A closed registration of interest (ROI) process is underway to identify providers to take part in the pilot. Allocation of contracted places and funding will be confirmed at the end of the ROI process.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry's website - www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-expanding-employment-services-for-disabled-people.pdf</p>

Specialist debt solution services	\$4 million over two years to increase the capacity of specialist debt solution services, including expanding services that deliver debt consolidation loans. This funding has been allocated to four organisations who will assist the national network of financial capability services to provide debt solutions services to anyone needing help to manage their debt. While four of these organisations are Auckland-based they will be supporting the nationwide network of financial capability services.
-----------------------------------	---

Appendix Two

Allocation of COVID Response and Recovery Funding for employment & income support services	
Note: Please note all data (including funding amounts) quoted are effective at 18 September 2020. Funding is subject to contracting and may change through the financial year.	
Initiative	Funding allocation
Supporting Offenders into Employment	<p>The Government is providing over \$12 million for the continuation of a cross-agency initiative focusing on early intervention, with intensive client management to provide offenders with long-term support, from release to achieving 12 months sustainable employment. The Ministry is committed to help reduce the overall impact of COVID-19 by improving future opportunities and wellbeing for offenders.</p> <p>\$1.295 million has been allocated to Auckland. \$1.380 million has not yet been allocated. The unallocated amount could see further allocation to Auckland</p> <p>More information can be found at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-supporting-offenders-into-employment.pdf</p>
The Construction Accord: Expand Skills for Industry Initiative (COVID-19 Response)	<p>The Government has invested \$59.6 million in expanding the successful Skills for Industry programme over three fiscal years (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022) to help close the skills gap and provide employment opportunities in the construction sector.</p> <p>The Ministry is committed to help reduce the overall impact of COVID-19 unemployment by preparing people to work in the construction sector.</p> <p>Based on 2020/2021 fiscal of \$27.4 million, the Auckland forecasted spend is \$4.985 million, for an estimated 1,259 contracted places. This is based on forecasted demand from our current employer and provider partners. Based on previous fiscal years, we are expecting 54% Maori participants.</p>

	<p>More information can be found at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-the-construction-accord-expanding-skills-for-industry.pdf</p>
<p>Mana in Mahi</p>	<p>Mana in Mahi is an existing programme that helps people who need additional support to enter permanent full (or part time) employment and complete an industry training qualification (which includes apprenticeships). Financial and pastoral care support is provided to both employers and employees while they are in the programme.</p> <p>MSD received additional funding through the Apprentice Support Programme to expand the existing programme response to COVID-19.</p> <p>The programme is targeted at people who are at risk of long term benefit receipt and has a focus on increasing uptake among Māori who represent around 40% of Mana in Mahi placements. Mana in Mahi has also been designed to support women and people with disabilities by including part time employment opportunities through the programme.</p> <p>Additional funding to support the expansion of the programme will be allocated to increase the subsidy rate for existing participants, provide access to training course fees (where applicable) and support a second year of training for this group.</p> <p>Regional allocations have not been finalised at this time.</p>
<p>Apprenticeship Boost – Provider Payments</p>	<p>The Apprenticeship Boost Initiative was implemented to support employers to retain existing apprentices and encourage them to take on new apprentices in the COVID-19 recovery. The support is available to employers with apprentices who are actively training and are in the first two years of their apprenticeship.</p> <p>\$204.045 million has been allocated to the Apprenticeship Boost. The Ministry is currently unable to determine regional spend as the funding has not been allocated at a regional level.</p>

<p>Temporary policy changes to expand access to assistance with rent arrears</p>	<p>Temporary policy changes to expand access to assistance with rent arrears have been allocated \$0.536 million total in funding. The funding has not yet been allocated on a regional level.</p>
<p>COVID Recovery Response – administration</p>	<p>This funding was for additional resourcing such as staff and IT changes required for the Ministry to administer the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme and the Leave Support Scheme, and phase 1 of the recovery package to support beneficiaries.</p> <p>\$3.940 million has been allocated to Auckland.</p>
<p>Employment Service Response to COVID-19</p>	<p>This initiative provides \$150 million funding over two years for employment services to respond to the impact and assist with the recovery from COVID-19. It will increase the capacity of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to provide employment support by expanding and adjusting MSD’s employment support services enabling MSD to take a more proactive and innovative approach with employers and employees, including providing ‘light touch’ services before people enter the benefit system.</p> <p>\$24.288 million has been allocated to Auckland. \$32.500 million has not yet been allocated. It is possible that parts of the unallocated amount will be allocated to Auckland.</p> <p>More information on this initiative is available on the Ministry’s website: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-getting-people-into-work.pdf</p>
<p>Additional Employment Service Response to COVID-19 (July)</p>	<p>Funding of an additional \$59 million for one year will enable the Ministry to further expand work products and initiatives to support more people who need employment assistance.</p> <p>More information is available at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/budget/2020/covid19-getting-people-into-work.pdf</p> <p>\$10.797 million has been allocated to Auckland. \$19 million has not yet been allocated. It is possible that parts of the unallocated amount will be allocated to Auckland.</p>

Wage Subsidy and Extensions	<p>The Ministry is unable to break down the recipients of the Wage Subsidy and the Wage Subsidy Extension by region. Applicants for the Wage Subsidy and Wage Subsidy Extension were required to provide the Ministry with a business address. However, a significant number of businesses have headquarters in big cities such as Auckland. Therefore, a disproportionate number of businesses that applied for the Wage Subsidy come under 'Auckland' or other big cities in the Ministry's data pool, although they may (solely) operate in other places. The Ministry therefore cannot compile a sound data table for businesses operating in a certain place at this time; any data provided may potentially be misleading.</p> <p>To provide the information requested, Ministry staff would have to manually verify the place of operation of all businesses. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold regional information of recipients of the Wage Subsidy scheme in a way that can be accurately measured.</p>
COVID-19 Income Relief Payment	<p>The COVID-19 Income Relief Payment provides temporary financial support to clients who have lost employment due to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>Information about the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment including a breakdown by regional council is available at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/index.html.</p>