



12 October 2022

Tēnā koe

On 21 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *We have worked through responses received and now ask the following:*
 1. *Question 8 was: How many beneficiaries in the NEETS Contracts were still beneficiaries at the end of each Contract?*

Your response was: Please refer to the Minister for Social Development and Employment's response to Written Parliamentary Question 7274 (2022), available at: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_07274_2022/7274-2022-debbie-ngarewa-packer-to-the-minister-for

This response did not answer our question. We are referred to a reiteration of the main purpose for NEETS programmes, which is about helping youth not in education, employment and training. Therefore we reiterate the question as follows:

1 (a) Please provide the breakdown of young people, specifically Māori but inclusive of all ethnicities who went on to receive a benefit, either straight after the completion of the programme, or after a 1-3 year span?

2. *Question 12 was: Has the NEETS fund ever been underspent in the last 10 years?*

Question 13 was: If so, what years and why?

Your response was: Regarding these two questions, please refer to the Minister for Social Development and Employment's response to Written Parliamentary Question 7337 (2022), available at: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_07337_2022/7337-2022-debbie-ngarewa-packer-to-the-minister-for

The response identified that financial and budget information were not recorded centrally. Also, there were budget underspends in the financial years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Due to these underspends the targeted young people in need was narrowed down to specifically high risk youth. As a result, a new contract commenced from 1 April 2020 and the budget was reduced to reflect the change. Our further extension to these questions are as follows:

- 2. (a) Please provide a breakdown of amounts of underspends for the financial years 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 periods.*
(b) Please provide details as to where the amounts of underspending were reallocated to for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 periods.
- 3. (a) Please advise the names of all the current Providers (as at June 2022) in all regions, stating many whanau/clients do they each have as active clients.*
(b) In addition to the above, please provide how long each of their active clients/whanau have been receiving their service(s) from each Provider.
(c) Please also provide a breakdown of each clients ethnicity, gender and age group (15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year olds) against each Provider
- 4. Please also provide how many of each provider's clients have successfully transitioned into employment, education or training over the last 2 years. Please provide a breakdown as per age group 15 to 19yo and 20 to 24 year olds, ethnicity, region, gender)*
- 5. As Māori and Pacifica youth are overrepresented in NEETs statistics, please advise how many and which providers, regionally, are specifically aimed at providing support to this cohort of youth.*
Please advise which providers incorporate Māori Tikanga and/or a Māori approach to NEETs clients. Please also state how they achieve this?
- 6. Please define the criteria of a 'high risk' NEETS client.*
- 7. What preventative measures or policy, if any, does the Ministry have in regards to lowering the increasing number of NEETs clients, particularly Māori and Pacifica.*

According to statistics, there are a total of 32,150 whanau/young persons who are identified as NEETs. What is your Ministry doing to meet the needs of those who do not meet the 'high risk' criteria that NEETs is now targeted to fund?

Your request contains follow-up questions in response to the Ministry's reply to you of 9 May 2022. The Ministry's 9 May 2022 response answered your request under the Act made on 24 February 2022.

On 13 September 2022, in accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act, your request was extended to 14 October 2022. The reason for the extension was that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response to the request could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The Youth Service for young people *Not Employment, Education or Training* (NEETS) aims to help them into education, training, or work-based learning, so they gain the skills to find a job and have an independent future. More information about NEETS is available on the Ministry's website: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/phrae/youth-service-for-neet.html

To answer your Questions 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), (b) and (c), 4, and 5, please see enclosed the following tables in the attached Excel Spreadsheet titled *Appendix: NEETs by ethnicity bft receipt in employment Jun 2022*.

Appendix One which contains the following tables:

Table One: The number of clients who have exited the NEET programme from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021, in response to Question 1(a).

Table Two: The number of clients who have exited the NEET programme to receiving a benefit during 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021, by Financial Year and exit reason, in response to Question 1(a).

Table Three: The number of clients who have exited the NEET programme to receiving a benefit during 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021, by Financial Year and ethnicity, in response to Question 1(a).

Table Four: The number of current clients aged 18 to 24 on Youth Payment (YP) and Young Parent Payment (YPP) as at the end of June 2022, by continuous duration, in response to Question 2(a) and (b).

Appendix Two which contains the following tables:

Table Five: The number of clients enrolled in the NEET programme, as at 30 June 2022, by region, in response to Question 3(a).

Table Six: The number of clients enrolled in the NEET programme, as at 30 June 2022, by provider, in response to Question 3(b).

Appendix Three which contains the following table:

Table Seven: The number of clients enrolled in the NEET programme, as at 30 June 2022, by provider and ethnicity, in response to Question 3(c).

Appendix Four which contains the following table:

Table Eight: The number of clients enrolled in the NEET programme, as at 30 June 2022, by provider and gender, in response to Question 3(c).

Appendix Five which contains the following table:

Table Nine: The number of clients enrolled in the NEET programme, as at 30 June 2022, by provider and age, in response to Question 3(c).

I will address your remaining questions as follows.

2. *(b) Please provide details as to where the amounts of underspending were reallocated to for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 periods.*

Regarding this question, please refer to Written Parliamentary Question 24781, Hon Louise Upston to the Minister for Social Development and Employment:

[24781 \(2022\). Hon Louise Upston to the Minister for Social Development and Employment - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](https://www.parliament.nz/24781-2022)

Please note, this underspend is for the total budget allocation and actual spend to external providers for the Youth Service in total and is not broken down to YP/YPP, and/or by NEET.

3. *(a) Please advise the names of all the current Providers (as at June 2022) in all regions, stating many whanau/clients do they each have as active clients.*

The Youth Service website provides the names of Youth Service providers and their regions at the following link: www.youthservice.govt.nz/find-your-nearest-provider/.

The list identifies whether each provider is part of NEET, and/or YP/YPP.

5. *As Māori and Pacifica youth are overrepresented in NEETs statistics, please advise how many and which providers, regionally, are specifically aimed at providing support to this cohort of youth.*

Please advise which providers incorporate Māori Tikanga and/or a Māori approach to NEETs clients. Please also state how they achieve this?

The Ministry's Youth Service tender in 2019 required applicants to demonstrate:

- How you have strong relationship with local schools, training organisations, employers/business, Iwi/Māori, and wider community.
- How you actively work with Māori and Pacifica youth to ensure you are engaged in a culturally appropriate way.

Regarding your request for which providers incorporate Māori Tikanga and/or a Māori approach to NEETs clients, please see our response to Question 3. Table Four in Appendix Three identifies the number of YP and YPP clients, and Table Seven in Appendix Three identifies clients by ethnicity.

6. *Please define the criteria of a 'high risk' NEETS client.*

Please refer to the Ministry's webpage, which addresses this request: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/phrae/youth-service-for-neet.html

7. *What preventative measures or policy, if any, does the Ministry have in regard to lowering the increasing number of NEETS clients, particularly Māori and Pacifica.*

According to statistics, there are a total of 32,150 whānau/young persons who are identified as NEETS. What is your Ministry doing to meet the needs of those who do not meet the 'high risk' criteria that NEETS is now targeted to fund?

The Ministry has a range of programmes targeted at the 32,150 whānau/young persons who are identified as NEETS. The following is a list of the programmes and a description of what it does.

Ministry Programme	What it does
E tu whānau	Supports whānau and rangatahi through wananga and co-designed services to: -support rangatahi who have witnessed family harm -strengthen the relationship between whānau and their rangatahi focused on development and learning -community-led rangatahi hubs.
Pasefika Proud	-Engagement with communities regarding additional prevention initiatives to support families -Supporting Pacific Youth Gang Recruitment Prevention initiatives

	<p>that focus on the young people and their families</p> <p>-Delivery of workshops for families with young children on how to keep their families safe and equip families to be able to respond to different scenarios, including gang recruitment.</p>
Limited Service Volunteer (LSV)	Improving young people's self-discipline, self-confidence, motivation and initiative to help them move into sustainable employment or other training opportunities.
<p>He Poutama Rangatahi</p> <p>Whakawātea ata re Poutama</p>	<p>Provides support to rangatahi most at risk of long-term unemployment and who may need ongoing support to connect to training and employment supports employers to help meet the needs of rangatahi.</p> <p>Whakawātea ata re Poutama is a subset of programmes under He Poutama Rangatahi to provide more targeted and intensive programmes to young people at risk of or already associated with gangs and or committing crime and support them holistically as well as into employment, education and or training. Programmes are focused in Auckland South and West, Waikato, Northland, and Bay of Plenty.</p>
Māori Trades and Training Fund	Supports community-led employment and training programmes empowers solutions by Māori, for Māori.
Intensive Case Management	Intensive case management expansion with targeted outcomes. Targeted to youth and whānau affiliated to gangs.
Community Connectors	Regional prioritisation of need. Targeted to youth and whānau affiliated to gangs.
Work brokers/Employment coordinators	Targeted support for whānau needing assistance to move into sustainable employment.
Youth Service (Ratonga Taiohi)	Youth Service supports 16-to-17-year old's who can't live with their family, be supported by them or anyone else as a result of exceptional

	<p>circumstances such as family breakdown (Youth Payment), and 16 to 19-year-old parents who are receiving financial assistance (Young Parent Payment). Youth Service also supports Young people who are 15- to 17-year-olds and are not receiving financial assistance from the Government and are not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Participation for Youth Service NEET is voluntary and these youth are assessed as high or very high Service Level Intensity (SLI).</p>
Housing for Youth	<p>Prioritisation of at-risk rangatahi on the Housing register.</p>

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 about NEETS programmes, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George van Ooyen
Group General Manager
Client Service Support