



11 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 July 2023, your request was transferred in-part to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Office of Hon. Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

(4) What process was followed by MSD in assessing Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust and its facilities for the care of babies?

- What assessments have been done of Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust 's facilities and its capabilities for the care of babies?*
- What did these assessments cover, when were the carried out and by whom?*

(7) What reviews of Taonga Education Centre Trust and their employees have been carried out by MSD?

(8) Does MSD supply funding to Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust.

- If so how much money was paid to the Trust in the last financial year?*

The Ministry will respond to each part of your request in turn.

(4) What process was followed by MSD in assessing Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust and its facilities for the care of babies?

- *What assessments have been done of Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust 's facilities and its capabilities for the care of babies?*
- *What did these assessments cover, when were they carried out and by whom?*

An organisation that provides care for a child who is in state care is called a 'care partner'. Oranga Tamariki hold the delegation to approve care partners.

To become a care partner, an organisation must hold Level 1 Social Services Accreditation (which is granted by Te Kāhui Kāhu), and then be approved by Oranga Tamariki under section s.396 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Te Kāhui Kāhu is a business unit within the Ministry that provides accreditation services on behalf of six government agencies:

- Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples -Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development – Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga
- Ministry of Justice – Tāhū o te Ture
- Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
- Ministry for Children – Oranga Tamariki

Accreditation provides assurance that organisations can safely deliver social services to their community.

Te Kāhui Kāhu currently accredit Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust at Level 1 on behalf of Oranga Tamariki. This means that the Trust is regularly assessed (at least every two years) against the Level 1 Social Sector Accreditation Standards.

Please see the following link for more information on the Social Sector Accreditation Standards:

www.tekahuikahu.govt.nz/accreditation/standards.html Oranga Tamariki conduct their own assessments of care partners against the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018 and their Quality Assurance Framework.

Regarding your question about who carried out these assessments within Te Kāhui Kāhu, this information is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

(7) What reviews of Taonga Education Centre Trust and their employees have been carried out by MSD?

Please see the following list of previous Te Kāhui Kāhu assessment dates of Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust against the Social Sector Accreditation Standards on behalf of Oranga Tamariki. They have been assessed in:

- July 2010
- June 2012
- May 2013
- December 2014
- December 2016
- February 2017
- June 2018
- June 2019
- June 2020
- September 2021

(8) Does MSD supply funding to Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust.

- *If so how much money was paid to the Trust in the last financial year?*

The Ministry does not supply funding to Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust. As such, your request for how much money was paid to them in the last financial year is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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'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 accreditation assessment information about Taonga Education Centre Charitable Trust, 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



Nicky Smith
General Manager
Te Kāhui Kāhu