



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

12 December 2023

Tēnā koe

On 1 November 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*...a breakdown of where the funds allocated under various community support initiatives this year went:*

*\$11.5m here:*

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-delivers-support-package-ngos-and-community-groups>

*\$17.5m* <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-working-faster-and-smarter-support-response-and-recovery>

*And the \$6m for community food providers referred to in this release:*  
<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/food-banks-get-government-top>

*Please provide the name of the organisation/group (applicant), how much was applied for and how much was approved.*

On 29 November 2023 the Ministry emailed you to advise that more time was required to respond to your request.

### Community Support Package

The Community Support Package provided immediate financial support to community groups and social sector providers, to deliver response and recovery efforts to whānau and communities in regions impacted by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. This included funding for essential goods and services, clean up, psychosocial and wellbeing support, restocking food supplies, discretionary funding top-ups for Community Connectors, and support for disabled people.

The initial package announced on 11 February 2023 comprised of:

- \$4 million to expand the scope of Community Connectors to support impacted regions
- \$4 million for grants for providers to ensure they can meet increased demand and support wellbeing of their staff and volunteers due to flooding and cyclone
- \$2 million of grants for community groups to support flood response
- \$1 million for community food providers to replenish stocks at food banks currently experiencing high demand
- \$0.5 million funding to respond to the needs of disabled people.

On 7 March 2023, the Government announced further support to communities and providers impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, this included:

- \$2 million for community food providers
- \$0.5 million for translation services and support for All-of-Government engagement.

### Funding allocations

\$4 million for providers and \$2 million for community groups were allocated based on applications. The Ministry's regional insights team completed assessments based on funding eligibility criteria. The amounts of funding organisations applied for, and the amounts approved are provided in the attached **Appendix**.

The \$4 million for Community Connectors was allocated based on \$45,000 per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for a top up of discretionary funding. Community Connector host organisations were not required to apply for funding. The approved amount allocated is provided in the attached **Appendix**.

The \$3 million for community food providers, and the \$8.5 million Community Food Fund, including the \$6 million announced by the Government on the 26 June 2023, was allocated to existing contracted community food providers and therefore applications were not required. Funding allocation was determined following an assessment against the eligibility criteria and the Ministry regional insights team. The approved amounts allocated to organisations are provided in the attached **Appendix**.

The \$0.5 million was allocated for the response to the needs of disabled people was allocation was based on the population of the region's providers supporting these community groups and allocated on estimated need rather than applications. Each provider also received a 15 percent administration contribution, included in the total funding, to provide support for the administration of the fund. Organisations did not need to apply for funding.

The \$0.5 million for All-of-Government translation services was allocated as follows:

- \$225,000 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities to increase their ability to provide translated material and support communication with ethnic communities about supports available through the cyclone response and recovery, Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) processes and emergency response services.
- \$225,000 to the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to increase their ability to provide translated material and support communication with pacific communities about supports available through the cyclone response and recovery, FOSAL processes and emergency response services.

Government agencies did not apply for funds. Funding allocation decisions were based on interagency engagement and assessment of need.

### Community Food Provider Fund

The \$8.5 million Community Food Provider funding, which includes \$6 million announced by the Government on the 26 June 2023, supports community food providers to meet current food demand and to transition out of reliance on government funding over 2023/24. Funding was allocated to existing, contracted community food providers which meant that applications were not required.

You can find more information on the Community Support Package for people impacted by North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle at the following link: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/community-support-package-for-people-impacted-by-north-island-floods-and-cyclone-gabrielle.html>.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.   
Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**