



26 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 28 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Under the Official Information Act, we are writing to request information held by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) regarding the distribution of the MSD Community Support Fund and the MSD Provider Support Fund for those affected by the recent North Island Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.*
- *We request access to any open dataset or information that can provide insights into the allocation and distribution of funds, including the number of applications received, the number and type of approved applications, the geographical distribution of recipients and the type of communities they serve, and any other relevant information.*
- *The timeframe for this request is up to 14 April 2023. We kindly request that you provide the requested information in an electronic format that is easily accessible and searchable.*

The Community Support Package was intended to alleviate some pressure on community groups and contracted providers who mobilised to support people, families and communities affected by the severe weather events in early 2023. Included in the wider Community Support Package were a number of separate funds to widen the scope of support available for those in affected areas.

The Community Support Fund is available for community groups not contracted by a government agency, while the Provider Support Fund is available for providers who have existing government contracts within the social sector. Examples of community groups include local marae, iwi, ethnic community organisations, religious and church groups, community hubs and not-for-profit organisations.

More information on the Community Support Package can be found here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/community-support-package-north-island-floods-and-cyclone-gabrielle.html.

You will find attached to this response a copy of the *Community Support Package Dashboard*, dated 20 April 2023, which outlines community and provider funding implementation as part of the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle welfare response.

Please refer to page two for the number of applications received, the number of applications approved and the geographical distribution of recipients.

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, 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



Serena Curtis
General Manager
Pacific and Community Capability Programmes

Key Messages

As at 9am 20 April, we have committed just over \$12.12 million from the \$14 million* Community Support Package.

Summary of funding distribution for period ending 20 April 2023

- The Community Support Fund remains fully exhausted
- The Provider Support Fund remains fully exhausted.
- Nil Discretionary funding for Community Connectors was approved between Thursday 13 April to Wednesday 19 April.
- No change to community food providers to what was reported last week.
- Funding to support disabled people remains fully exhausted.

High level lines on the package

- Information on the funding package is live on the [MSD website](#). All communications clearly state that funding is time limited and will only be available to 30 June 2023.
- Prioritisation of funding continues to focus on people and areas most impacted. We are working with our regions to proactively engage with providers and community groups we hold existing relationships with.
- Agencies are working to ensure funding reaches the communities in the most need. We are working with Social Wellbeing Agency to understand the scale of impact in each region. As part of this work, we are also working to ensure we target equitable support to organisations that support priority populations in impacted regions.
- We are developing an approach to reporting from grant recipients, which is easy to complete and is proportionate to the level of investment.
- We are working with MEC, MPP, MBIE and Whaikaha to agree on the approach to distributing the \$0.5 million for short term translation support. As part of this work, we are engaging with MBIE on utilising/expanding their Connecting Now service to support access to interpreting services. We will work with the DPMC Cyclone Recovery Unit on how to best manage AOG communications and coordination response going forward.

Cross agency engagement

- Ongoing engagement and coordination of support packages with other government agencies (NEMA, Whaikaha, TPK, MPP, MEC, DIA and Te Whatu Ora etc) continues.
- Agencies have agreed on a cross government contract flexibility framework. Individual agencies are looking at how this framework will be applied in a manner that is specific to their needs.
- MSD has determined how we will approach contract flexibility and communicated this approach to our provider networks on 3 March.

Implementation Approach



Community Support Fund (\$2m)

- This funding is for local community groups, who are not contracted by a government agency to support the wellbeing of whānau affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Originally capped at \$3,500 per organisation will allow support for up to 570 groups.
- Cap increased to \$20,000 per organisation from 9 March.
- Funding will be allocated via a conditional grant.



Provider Support Fund (\$4m)

- This funding is for providers who already have government contracts in the social sector.
- This fund includes support for provider wellbeing acknowledging the cumulative impacts of events of the last 3 years.
- Originally capped at \$7,000 per organisation will allow support for up to 570 organisations.
- Cap increased to \$40,000 per organisation from 9 March.
- Funding will be allocated via a conditional grant.



Community Connectors (\$4m)

- This funding will support existing Care in the Community welfare response Community Connectors to widen the scope of the support they provide – from their current remit of supporting people impacted by COVID-19, to also supporting those affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Discretionary funding to support households will be increased to up to \$1,000 per household.



Food (\$3m)

- This funding will support existing community food providers to refill their stocks and respond to current demand in communities affected by the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- This funding will be distributed through existing systems, including the New Zealand Food Network which supports community food providers by facilitating bulk purchasing of essential food items.
- Capped at \$10k per organisation will allow for at least 50 providers to be supported with grant funding.



Disability Support (\$0.5m)

- This funding will support disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and/or their households to access support for immediate and unexpected needs due the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Capped at \$1,000 per individual or household supported.

Community Support Package | 20 April 2023

Community and provider funding implementation as part of flood and Cyclone Gabrielle welfare response

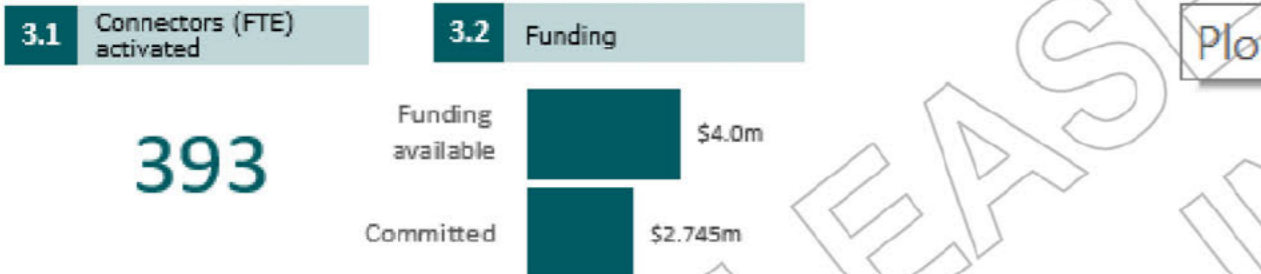
1 Community support



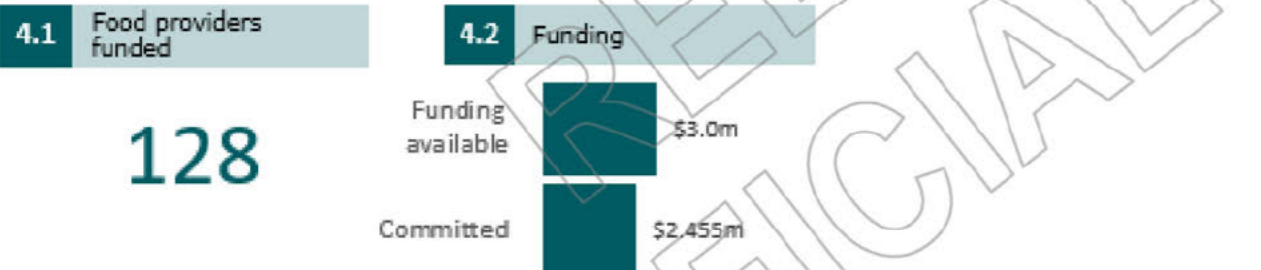
2 Provider support



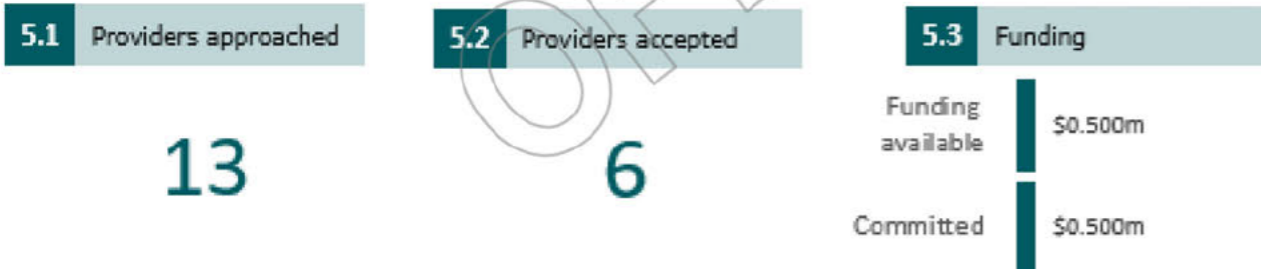
3 Community Connector



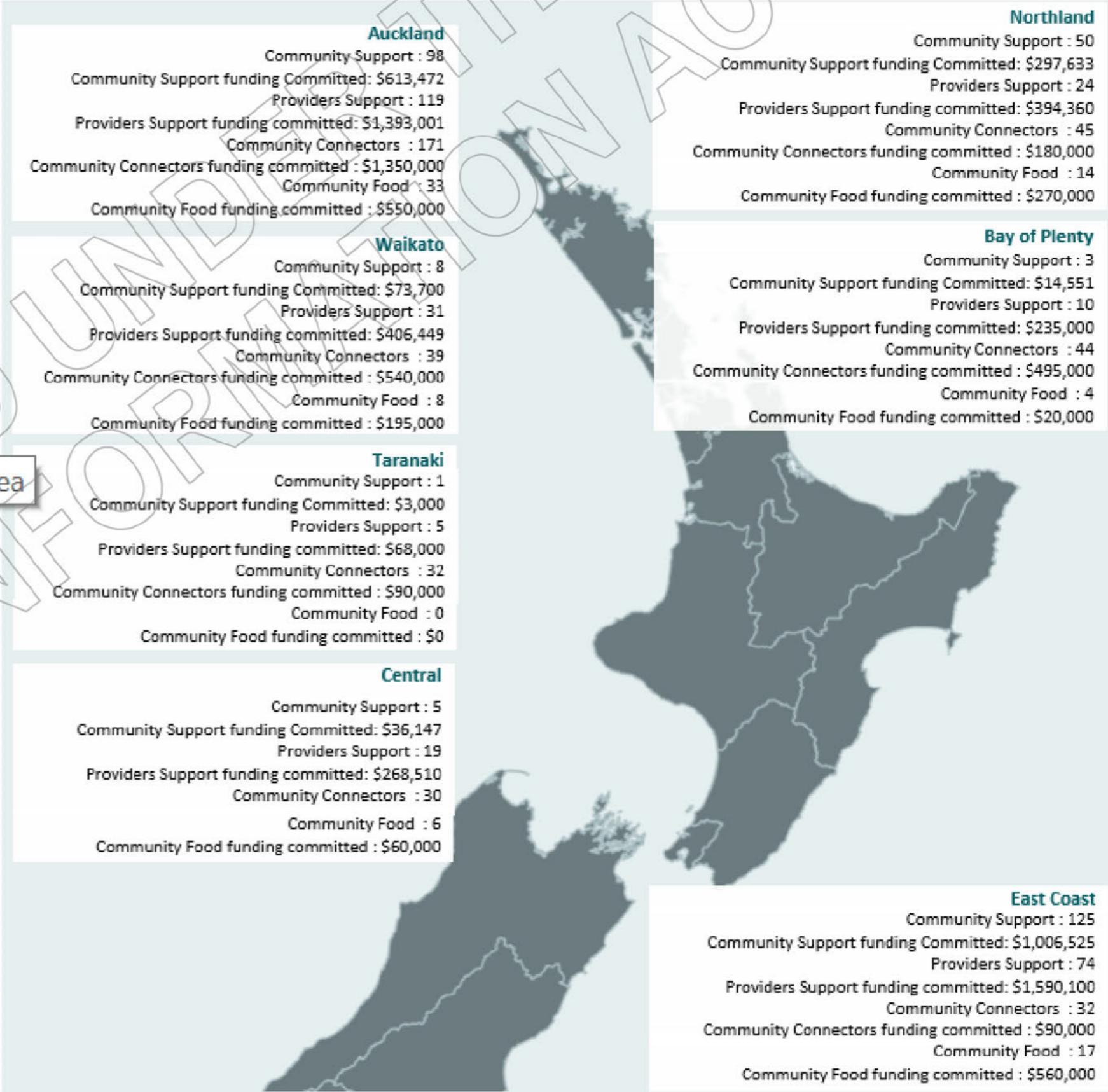
4 Community Food






5 Disability



6 MSD regions



Section 7: The number of community groups, providers and Community Connector FTE funded through the Community Support Package who identify as primarily serving Māori, Pacific and Ethnic or Migrant populations and, the funding committed to them

	Māori		Pacific		Ethnic and Migrant	
	Organisations	Funding Committed	Organisations	Funding Committed	Organisations	Funding Committed
 Community Support Fund (\$2m)	194	\$1,316,568	37	\$178,328	72	\$488,300
 Provider Support Fund (\$4m)	97	\$1,648,473	29	\$564,000	13	\$179,000
 Community Connectors (\$4m)	21	\$1,282,500	9	\$697,500	7	\$315,000

Explainers

Section 1: Community Support Fund

1.1 Applications - Total number of applications the Ministry has received

1.2 Approved - Total number of applications the Ministry has approved

1.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - Total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

Section 2: Provider Support Fund

2.1 Applications - Total number of applications the Ministry has received

2.2 Approved - Total number of applications the Ministry has approved

2.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

Section 3: Community Connectors

3.1 Connectors activated (FTE) - Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) that have been activated to support flood and cyclone response. All connectors in the affected regions have been activated.

3.2 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

Section 4: Community Food

4.1 Food providers funded - Total number of community food providers the Ministry has funded.

4.2 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount of funding the Ministry has committed

Section 5: Disability

4.1 Disability providers approached - Total number of providers the Ministry has approached

4.2 Disability providers accepted - Total number of providers who have accepted this funding

4.3 Funding

- **Funding Available** - The total allocation for this fund
- **Funding Committed** - The amount funding the Ministry has committed

Section 6: MSD regions

- This diagram shows resources allocated to the affected MSD regions (Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and East Coast). Regional and national counts will not reconcile because some larger providers and groups work across regions.
- Some providers will be delivering support to disabled people across multiple areas, therefore are not able to be displayed for a specific region/location.

Section 7 Explainers:

- **Māori** - Community groups or providers who have identified Māori as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Pacific** - Community groups or providers who have identified Pacific peoples as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Ethnic and Migrant** - Community groups or providers who have identified Ethnic and Migrant people as the primary population they are supporting with the grant.
- **Organisations** - The number of organisations who have been approved funding that identify as primarily serving this population.
- **Funding committed** - The amount funding the Ministry has committed to those organisations.