



31 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 4 April 2023, you emailed Ara Poutama Aotearoa - Department of Corrections, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) as follows:

*Can you provide the number of people who take up the Supporting Offenders into Employment Programme:*

- *Can you provide these figures quarterly for the years 2018 – 2023*
- *Can you also provide the ethnicity breakdown for these figures.*

On 3 May 2023, Ara Poutama Aotearoa emailed you to advise that your request had been transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry).

You may know that the Supporting Offenders into Employment (SOE) service is a joint partnership programme between Ara Poutama Aotearoa and the Ministry. This service aims to support people to reintegrate into the community, take steps towards gaining sustainable employment, and reduce reoffending.

A team of 25 Integrated Case Managers, responsible for management of clients with complex needs, as well as a contracted service provider in Auckland, works with clients in locations from Kaikohe to Invercargill. The staff provide wraparound, holistic support, connecting people with services to improve their health, whānau relationships, pro-social networks, housing sustainability, and education, training and employment, all at the direction and pace of the person receiving the service.

Please see attached, **APPENDIX** with a table showing the quarterly numbers of participants of the SOE programme for the quarters March 2018 to March 2023, broken down by ethnicity. Notes are provided to assist with the reading of the table.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response about the SOE programme, 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



Graham Allpress  
**Director Client Service Delivery**