



17 June 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 8 June 2024, requesting information about the number of grants paid for circumcision. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

There is no specific programme that provides assistance towards the cost of circumcision. However, some clients may qualify for hardship assistance to help with these costs, provided the procedure was considered an immediate and essential need, such as an emergency medical treatment.

Staff can use their discretion to grant hardship assistance having regard to the client's individual circumstances and the effect on the client and partner or dependent children, if any, if the need is met.

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 regarding grants paid for circumcision, 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**