

24 September 2021

File Ref: OIA 43920

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 2 September 2021. You asked for the following information:

“Your Whānau Ora commissioning agencies are receiving \$8.816 million with a further \$14.216 million available depending on the impact of Alert Level changes.

Please provide me with a breakdown of how the \$8.816 Million will be spent.

Please provide a further breakdown of how the extra \$14.216 million will be spent when it or a portion of it is used.

Im interested in a comparison between how much goes to bureaucracy, management, the board, the CE & his personal staff versus how much goes to whanau.

Whanau

Please provide a list of the tribes, hapu, collectives, businesses & individuals who are to receive Covid extra whanau ora funding and how much is received and what for (certainly without people's names).”

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 2 September the Government announced that it is increasing funding for Whānau Ora to support whānau through the current COVID-19 Delta variant response. A total of \$23.032m was announced for this purpose, to be allocated between the Whānau Ora commissioning agencies.

As you may be aware, there are three Whānau Ora commissioning agencies:

- Te Pou Matakana (trading as the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency) – serving whānau in the North Island
- Te Pūtahitanga o te Waipounamu – serving whānau in the South Island

- Pasifika Futures – serving Pacific families across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Whānau Ora operates using a devolved commissioning model, with commissioning agencies using funding provided through Vote Māori Development to commission activities that respond to the needs of whānau. The majority of funding allocated to commissioning agencies goes directly towards supporting whānau, however commissioning agencies are able to use up to 20% of the funding received on operational activities. All other funding goes toward commissioning activities, such as navigational services and other community initiatives.

Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency Annual reports, including audited financial returns, are published every year accounting for expenditure in the previous year, and are publicly accessible.

From the \$23.032m, \$17.632m (two tranches of \$8.816m) was allocated to the three commissioning agencies using the 'standard allocation model,' a formula agreed with the commissioning agencies. The percentage of funding allocation for commissioning agencies set out by the formula is: 45.49% for Te Pou Matakana, 33.28% for Pasifika Futures and 21.23% for Te Pūtahitanga o te Waipounamu. The allocation formula takes into account population density, location and other factors such as analysis of the deprivation index.

This funding was provided to support the immediate needs of whānau in this time, which can change daily. As a result, we do not currently hold information about the precise nature of how this funding will be spent by each commissioning agency. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

However, the COVID-19 response-related activities what we have seen commissioning agencies and their providers undertaking include:

- supporting whānau to attend vaccinations, testing and other health appointments,
- providing whānau with direct support including kai, utility payments and connectivity,
- contacting whānau and kaumatua on their books to check if they need support, and
- increasing communications across navigator and partner networks to keep whānau up to date with important health information.

For more information, see: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pr-davis-sepuloni-henare-government-increases-wh%C4%81nau-support-covid-19-response>

As the Minister for Whānau Ora has publicly noted, further funding of \$5.400m for exceptional circumstances will be provided to commissioning agencies based on the level of need in the community. This will support the work of Whānau Ora providers to meet the increased community need for support, including accessing vaccinations, testing and self-isolating spaces.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact OIA@tpk.govt.nz

Ngā mihi



Paula Rawiri

Hautū, Te Puni Rangapū ā-Rohe me Whakahaere | Deputy Secretary, Regional Partnerships & Operations