



14 December 2021

File Ref: OIA 44338

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 19 November 2021. You asked for the following information:

*“This is a request for Official Information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to \$46.75 million in funding to accelerate Maori vaccination rates*

*“We request the following information:*

- *“A breakdown of what, where and how this \$46.75 million will be spent.*
- *“The total amount spent on incentives to encourage Maori to get vaccinated, i.e, vouchers, food services and other methods.”*

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

On 22 October 2021 Ministers Davis, Henare and Jackson announced details of a \$120m Māori Communities COVID-19 Fund (MCCF). Te Puni Kōkiri is responsible for administering the fund, working alongside Te Arawhiti, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development.

The funding will be delivered over two phases:

- a. Phase 1 will see \$60 million directly distributed to Māori, iwi and community providers to support **rapid vaccination uptake**
- b. Phase 2 funding will focus on **increasing resilience**, ensuring access to information and resources, and supporting locally-led and co-designed approaches to managing and minimising the impacts of COVID-19.

A Ministerial Oversight Group oversees the MCCF, made up of the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, the Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health) / te Minita mō Whānau Ora, and te Minita Whanaketanga Māori.

\$46.75m has been approved to date, and the amounts disbursed to providers are set out in Table One below:

**Table One: Māori Communities COVID-19 Fund recipients, as at 30 November 2021**

	Provider	Area	\$ contracted
1.	Karawhiua Te Tai Tokerau	Te Tai Tokerau	\$4.437m
2.	Ngā Iwi o Taranaki Collective	Taranaki	\$1.332m
3.	Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency	North Island	\$5.000m
4.	Waikato Waiariki Collective	Waikato Waiariki	\$4.950m
5.	Karawhiua - Tamaki Makaurau Accelerated Pathways	Tamaki Makaurau	\$1.832m
6.	Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Heretaunga	\$2.260m
7.	Te Ranga Tupua	Whanganui	\$2.843m
8.	Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu	Te Waipounamu	\$0.696m
9.	Southern Ikaroa Rāwhiti	Ikaroa Rawhiti	\$0.428m
10.	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui	South Taranaki	\$1.022m
11.	Ngāti Ranginui Fisheries	Tauranga / Eastern BOP	\$0.100m
12.	Ngāti Tamaterā	Hauraki / Tamaki	\$0.075m
13.	Waikato Tainui	Waikato	\$8.000m
14.	Te Arawa	Lakes DHB + Te Arawa	\$2.530m
15.	Māori Wardens	National	\$1.196m
16.	Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu	Te Waipounamu	\$0.192m
17.	Te Waipounamu	Te Waipounamu	\$0.818m
18.	Te Tauihu	Nelson / Marlborough	\$0.250m
19.	Ngāti Toa Rangatira	Porirua	\$0.930m
20.	Tāmaki Tū Kotahi ira.dot	Tairāwhiti	\$2.661m
21.	Whiti Mai - Tairāwhiti	Counties Manukau / Waikato	\$5.000m
		<i>Running total</i>	<i>\$46.553<sup>1</sup></i>

<sup>1</sup> This figure is less than the \$46.75M approved by Ministers. The difference is due to contract negotiations with providers resulting in some minor changes to overall funding required.

The funding listed above is for Phase One of the MCCF, which has focused on accelerating vaccination uptake until Christmas 2021 through:

- direct financial support to iwi and Māori organisations undertaking vaccination and/or community mobilisation efforts
- focussing funding on priority areas where Māori vaccination rates are low – currently Te Tai Tokerau, Counties Manukau, Lakes District, Northland, Taranaki and Tairāwhiti DHB areas
- focussing funding on priority groups including rangatahi, whānau without permanent housing, tangata whaikaha, whānau who are not well-connected to health services, Māori with mental health and addiction conditions and whānau in rural and remote communities.

The vaccination rollout up until mid-October 2021 had delivered millions of vaccinations, predominantly to easier-to-reach populations, especially urban, well-connected demographics with a higher level of trust in government. The need to vaccinate as many people as possible had led health authorities to use a one-size-fits-most model to maximise the numbers vaccinated in the short term.

This approach has not worked for a substantial number of Māori, particularly those in rural areas, without permanent housing, rangatahi and young adults and/or those who were not well connected with health services. The MCCF funding is intended to connect vaccinators with whānau and whānau with vaccinators.

Some examples of initiatives that have been funded in Phase One to date have included:

- establishment of vaccination centres in community hubs, especially in rural locations
- mobile clinics to reduce accessibility barriers for our whānau in accessing vaccination appointments, and mobile clinics at community gatherings, sports events, construction worksites, secondary schools and farmers markets
- communication strategies, including the use of social media and online information sessions to share accurate vaccination information in hard-to-reach communities
- engaging kanohi ki te kanohi with information kete and kai packs
- youth-led events
- *'take 2 for the team'* programme which focuses on targeting sports clubs
- establishment and capability lift of culturally focused call centres
- incentives such as food parcels and shopping vouchers
- working alongside Māori businesses to build capability and awareness about the vaccination mandate in order to support kaimahi to get vaccinated.

We are currently receiving the first rounds of performance reporting from early contracted providers.

Your second question asks for the total amount spent on incentives, however the exact details of this are held by the contracted entities. Their proposals often cover a range of activities, and many of the proposals were submitted by collectives which means that each proposal can have multiple contracts sitting underneath it. Each provider has been issued a contract that outlines the scope of activities that we are funding them for – there are over 50 different contracts currently in place.

This decentralised approach to delivery is because we know that community-led initiatives are successful, and a whānau approach is key. Many of those who are unvaccinated do not trust or engage with government agencies, so the MCCF needed to work with community providers who have or can build that rapport. Government can provide the funding and vaccines, while providers build the relationship for those who are hesitant or hard to reach.

Initial funding was targeted towards known providers with a history of delivery and established relationships with MCCF agencies were preferred, as this has enabled a quicker rollout.

The other key factor is speed of response. With an ongoing outbreak in Auckland that has been spreading to other regions and a transition to the COVID Protection Framework signalled in advance by Government, the timeframe for implementation was weeks, rather than months. This has required a rapid procurement approach.

As the organisations listed are not subject to the Act, the second part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by Te Puni Kōkiri and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by another department or connected more closely with the functions of another department.

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](http://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 [uia@tpk.govt.nz](mailto:uia@tpk.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Smit', written in a cursive style.

Grace Smit

Hautū Tautoko Whakahaere | Deputy Secretary, Organisational Support