



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

- 4 SEP 2013

George Smith  
[fyi-request-1054-819e5fd1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1054-819e5fd1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your email of 5 August 2013, which was transferred to the Ministry on 6 August 2013, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982:

- *The cost of holding the 2013 Youth Parliament – itemised information is preferable.*

The seventh Youth Parliament was held on 16 and 17 July 2013 in Wellington. Youth Parliament is an opportunity for young people aged 16 to 18 years old to be involved in a unique event which replicates New Zealand Parliament. Youth Parliament has been held every three to four years since 1994 and was first held to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years.

Youth MPs have the opportunity to experience democracy first hand through debating legislation, sitting on select committees and asking parliamentary questions of Cabinet Ministers. The Youth Press Gallery members, aged between 16 and 24, are involved in reporting on Youth Parliament. Youth Parliament involved 121 Youth MPs and 20 Youth Press Gallery members replicating the workings of Parliament.

To ensure young people could participate in the programme flights and accommodation were provided to support non-Wellington based young people to attend. In addition to this, two Youth MPs were hearing impaired and to ensure they could participate fully, sign language interpreters were available for the entire two-day event.

Youth Parliament is coordinated and organised by the Ministry of Youth Development in collaboration with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Office of the Clerk, the Parliamentary Service and New Zealand's 121 Members of Parliament.

The table below shows the costs to the Ministry of Social Development of the 2013 Youth Parliament per day for travel, accommodation, food, interpreters and resources per participant was approximately \$320.

Item	Details	MSD Cost
Travel and transport	Including return travel to Wellington for non-Wellington based Youth Parliamentarians, bus charter and mini-van hire	\$20,124.98
Accommodation	Accommodation costs for non-Wellington based participants	\$10,637.40
Food	Food for the Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members	\$32,881.04
Sign Language interpreters	Four interpreters to provide support for the two deaf Youth MPs for two full days	\$9,129.73
Resources	Including design and printing of Youth Parliament promotional material to support nationwide nomination process, resource folders for Youth MPs, information packs, training packs, badges and certificates	\$12,887.40
Other	Including IT requirements, presenters, stationery, photography and videography	\$4,804.23
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$90,464.78</b>
<b>Per Participant Per Day</b>		<b>\$320</b>

Notes:

1. Not all invoices have been received for Youth Parliament 2013, so the amounts are based on estimates / quotes for some of the costs.
2. These costs include costs incurred in the lead up to the event (including production of promotional material and Youth Parliamentarian training workshops) as well as the costs involved with the two day event.
3. All costs exclude GST.

I hope you find this information on the cost of the 2013 Youth Parliament helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Iona Holsted  
**Deputy Chief Executive Social, Policy and Knowledge**