

01 October 2020

Mr John Luke

fyi-request-13695-c5c6697d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Luke

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2020 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *May I ask what is the term of reference or job description of this title "SKIP Champion". What is the pay rate and can you please provide the name of current and past SKIP Champion, also their bio if possible, what is the selection criteria of this position and how you call for public application.*
- *Also can you please provide some more context around your "SKIP program" what does it do and what is the purpose of this program*

The Voices of Whānau and Community team within Oranga Tamariki are responsible for the Strategies for Kids, Information for Parents (SKIP) initiative. SKIP was established in 2004 to provide parents of children under five with alternative evidence-based approaches to physical discipline as a response to the Government repealing s59 of the Crimes Act 1961. SKIP takes a social change approach to build protective factors in whānau and communities. The goal is to support tamariki to be safe, nurtured and loved. This approach deliberately builds social connections, reduces isolation, creates supportive environments and promotes conscious parenting for whānau and tamariki.

SKIP Champions have played an integral role in supporting the SKIP initiative since it began. The SKIP Champions' primary focus is to strengthen whānau capability through promoting conscious parenting, healthy relationships and community connections. There is no application process to become a SKIP Champion. Instead, members of the community that have been identified as connected and trusted individuals within their community are invited to become SKIP Champions. SKIP Champions' whakapapa, cultural and relationship capital are invaluable to the SKIP approach, as they are able to collaborate at a

community level, where they have greater reach and impact to facilitate change. Many SKIP Champions are positioned well to identify potential initiatives that show innovative ways of supporting hapū, iwi, whānau and community in strategies and evidence-based approaches in keeping tamariki safe and building whānau and community capability.

The Local Initiative Fund (LIF) is a grant-based fund and is a key enabler for supporting community-led approaches. This funding supports communities to collaborate and create sustainable community change to strengthen whānau for the wellbeing of their tamariki.

The LIF activates SKIP's approach by supporting innovative community-led projects that:

- build local capability
- support communities and whānau to focus on the wellbeing and safety of tamariki aged 0 – 5 years
- strengthen the protective factors for whānau to prevent child abuse.

SKIP Champions are funded from this grant. Each year, the use and investment of the LIF grant is reviewed against the current priorities to ensure it continues to be aligned with the goals of the grant. The current two-year grant for the six SKIP Champions is for a total of \$902,796.00, which ends on 2 December 2021. These grants cover the SKIP Champions' travel expenses, materials and resources for workshops and wānanga, and community projects.

These grants take into account the SKIP Champions' time spent helping the community but are not considered to be a salary or rate of pay. As such, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by Oranga Tamariki nor do we have grounds to believe it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or local authority.

Your request for names and bios of current SKIP Champions has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act as this information is publicly available. To view this information please follow the link below:

<https://community.skip.org.nz/support-and-funding/our-champions/>

Oranga Tamariki does not directly employ the SKIP Champions, we simply ensure that they have access to our resources so they can support parents and their community. As such, we cannot provide the names and bios of past SKIP Champions. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by Oranga Tamariki nor do we have grounds to believe it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or local authority.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we 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@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Thank you for writing.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'Steve Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom

General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services