

29 July 2021

Anna Goodwin

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Tēnā koe Anna

Official Information Act request

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) received your email request for official information dated 27 July 2021. You request the following information under the Official Information Act:

Health Minister Andrew Little announced today that your organization has appropriated \$42 million NZD to fund 36 projects directed at addressing "misinformation" related to the Covid-19 jab resulting in "vaccine hesitancy" by the NZ public. Please provide the following information for the sake of the public interest and government transparency:

- 1. What is the definition of "Covid-19 misinformation" for the purposes of the allotment of funding to address this problem? Are there uniform criteria being applied between and among the 36 separate projects designed to end this problem?*
- 2. What is the source of the \$42 million NZD? If this has come from the NZ government please provide proceedings and discuss any opportunities for public discourse related to the appropriation of these funds.*
- 3. The names of each of the 36 individual projects, titles, or organizations and the specific amount of funding granted to each entity.*
- 4. Procedures followed by the funded entities to obtain this funding, any public notice put forth for the equal opportunity for organizations to apply for this funding, and the total number of applications put forth for this specific funding.*
- 5. Selection criteria employed for determining who would be granted funding by the HRC for these projects.*
- 6. Names of the individuals and any declarations of interest of those serving as decision makers related to the allocation of the \$42 million for these 36 individual projects.*

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 24 August 2021, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

Ngā mihi

Professor Sunny Collings

Chief Executive