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OIA3406

8 November 2024

Nick Armstrong  
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Dear Nick

**OIA response**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 23 September 2024, to the Disability Support Services (DSS) business unit within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). You sought information in relation to the My Home, My Choice programme. I have answered each part of your request in turn.

- **Any briefing papers, whether in draft or final, regarding the work completed to date, programme direction or recommendations.**

In Appendix 1, you will find copies of the following internal papers:

Date	Title
<b>February 2024</b>	Funding Request: My Home, My Choice
<b>4 April 2024</b>	Excerpt from Transformation Management Board Meeting 4 April 2024
<b>15 May 2024</b>	My Home, My Choice Nōku te Kainga Noho Nōku te Whakatau – update on the implementation of the Intensive Response Team
<b>26 May 2024</b>	Funding Request: Improving outcomes and public value – residential care
<b>6 June 2024</b>	Excerpt from the Transformation Management Board Meeting 6 June 2024
<b>July 2024</b>	My Home, My Choice Programme Report
<b>August 2024</b>	My Home, My Choice Programme Report

**August 2024**

Update to the Transformation Management Board following the Independent Review of Whaikaha and subsequent Cabinet decisions.

Please note, some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(j) - to enable any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.
- **Any internal correspondence within the Ministry regarding the programme, including but not limited to, any repositioning of the programme by the new government, whether the work completed to date should be shared publicly, advice provided by advisors within the Ministry, discussions regarding the findings from consultation with service providers and service users, consideration of the findings of the Royal Commission regarding abuse in care.**

In Appendix 2, you will find email correspondence relating to the current status of the My Home, My Choice programme. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

By way of background, in September 2024, responsibility for funding and commissioning disability support services transferred to DSS as a new business unit within MSD. Work is currently underway to determine the work programme for DSS.

Further information about the recent changes to DSS can be found here: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/news/independent-review>

As of August 2024, the programme's objective is to continue progressing the four My Home, My Choice initiatives within baseline funds by continuing the thinking required to resolve existing and future challenges relating to facility-based residential care.

Decisions about how the My Home, My Choice programme will be managed in future will be made in due course by the Taskforce.

The remainder of this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial research and collation to identify all internal correspondence about the programme. If, after reading the documentation provided, you have further questions, I invite you to submit a more refined request.

- **Any advice and/or external correspondence regarding the programme, including but not limited to, correspondence with Ministers, third parties or researchers**

In Appendix 3 you will find copies of advice provided to the Minister for Disability Issues:

- REP/WHK/23/11/007 Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People Funded Disability Supports
- REP/WHK/23/12/008 Whaikaha functions and actions for safeguarding disabled people and ensuring the quality of disability supports

Information about My Home, My Choice was also provided in the 2024 Briefing to the Incoming Minister, which is publicly available here:

<https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assets/About-us/Corporate-Publications/BIMs/Whaikaha-2024-BIM.pdf>

No further advice from external parties or researchers about My Home, My Choice has been identified as in scope of your request.

Information relating to system transformation funding can be found in the publicly available Cabinet Paper "Report back on phase one of the independent review into the sustainability of Disability Support Services administered by the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha' 12 August 2024", which can be found here: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/news/independent-review/cabinet-paper-12-august-2024>

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please contact [OIA\\_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ben O'Meara  
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