

20 May 2025

By email: fyi-request-30773-b05961d3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe G

I refer to your request for information dated 18 April 2025 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

National has recently announced that it will be increasing the number of medical school placements by 50 starting this year for both Auckland and Otago

I would like to inquire how these additional places will be allocated across the various entry categories for admission in 2026 within Otago MBChB programme. Specifically, could you please clarify how many additional placements will be assigned to each category?

Our response to your request follows.

The Government has announced that it will fund an increase in the number of admissions to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programmes at the University of Otago and the University of Auckland by 25 students in 2026. This announcement, and a Government commitment to a further 25 funded admissions in 2027, was publicly reported here: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/543700/government-boosts-medical-school-intake-numbers>.

Of the 25 additional funded admissions commencing in 2026, ten (10) will be allocated to the University of Otago.

The University of Otago will allocate any increase in admission places to the main categories of admission as follows: Health Sciences First Year, 70%; Graduate, 20%; Alternative, 10% as per the standard distribution of places according to the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#). The University does not predetermine or cap admission numbers for equity groups, under [Te Kauae Parāoa: Division of Health Sciences Policy on Admissions](#). The only exception is that a total of 55 admissions will be available across all admissions categories (Health Sciences First Year, Graduate, and Alternative) for the New Zealand Rural Origins equity group. Te Kauae Parāoa is focused on ensuring our graduates across all student cohorts including the general cohort reflect the values and expectations outlined in the policy.

We hope this information is useful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frewen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance