



10 April 2026

Tēnā koe Dyanna Smith

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 27 December 2025, requesting the number of young people assisted into education, training or other programmes from 2018 to 2025.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD), a business unit within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), funds a wide range of community-based early intervention and prevention programmes around the country that help young people develop and apply knowledge, skills, and experience so they can participate confidently in their communities. Some MYD-funded programmes may assist young people to re-engage in education, training, or employment. Information relating to individual participation and the type of education, training and employment-related activity is held by MYD-funded providers. **Appendix One** provides the number of young people supported through MYD funded programmes between 2018 and 2025.

Appendix Two provides the number of MSD Youth Service clients receiving Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment and young people not in education, employment or training that the Ministry has assisted into education as at the end of June 2018 to June 2025.

The part of your request that asks for the information to be broken down by the type of education, training, and for the information to be provided by calendar year is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry also provides other programmes that include young people, among these include Community Participation services and Employment Services in School. In order to provide you with all other programmes that young people have been engaged in with the Ministry, this would divert personnel from their core duties and require the allocation of extra time in order to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Please get in touch with us if you are interested in Community Participation services and Employment Services in School and we will consider your request.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on MSD's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services



Appendix One: The number of young people supported through Ministry of Youth Development-funded programmes between 2018 and 2025.

Financial Year	Number of young people supported	By age group				
		12-14	15-17	18-20	21-24	Age not provided
2018/19	116,555	29,603	59,436	15,177	3,600	8,739
2019/20	35,133	7,204	18,821	5,018	2,100	1,990
2020/21	49,181	12,143	28,596	6,055	1,805	582
2021/22	58,096	23,435	26,319	4,449	1,628	2,265
2022/23	67,035	21,192	26,909	8,417	1,899	8,618
2023/24	63,386	15,443	24,885	4,427	1,348	17,283
2024/25	69,899	17,550	26,029	5,040	1,332	19,948

- MYD defines young people as individuals aged 12–24 years.
- Year-to-year fluctuations reflect how MYD responds to community needs and/or changing priorities and the different providers and programmes that are funded.