



19 SEP 2016

Craig MacKinlay  
[fyi-request-4562-272df7c1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-4562-272df7c1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Craig

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2016 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*How many families top up their child's teacher aide hours out of their own pockets. Secondly, how many children have their teacher aide hours topped up by their families or other means? Is not paid for by the NZ government.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

It is important that students with additional learning needs receive the support they need to learn and achieve. Students with additional learning needs can access a range of support, which may include support from a teacher aide. Teacher aides work with guidance from the classroom teacher to support the classroom teaching programme and student's learning.

Teacher aide support is funded from a range of sources such as special education grants to schools; schools' operating budgets; Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTL) learning support fund; and the Ministry of Education's special education service.

With regard to your specific request, the Ministry does not collate data on the number of students receiving additional teacher aide hours which are funded from sources other than those outlined above. Schools are self-governing and it will be a matter for the school, and the parent and/or third parties concerned, to agree to the circumstances of any "top up" to government-funded teacher aide hours for a particular student. Schools are not obligated to report any such arrangement to the Ministry. For this reason, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**