



Ryan S

fyi-request-6108-b412880c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA 1718 0004

Dear Ryan S

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2017 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

"I noted that Immigration New Zealand can have people pay ESOL fees if they do not meet English standards when applying for residency.

Could i request the following information:

- 1. How many people in the past 12 months have paid an ESOL fee in relation to a Residence application*
- 2. How much total money has Immigration New Zealand collected in the past 12 months in relation to these fees*
- 3. Does Immigration New Zealand then pass these funds off to ESOL providers to ensure that applicants learn English?*
- 4. How are the ESOL fees distributed or allocated? (Where does the fee money go)?"*

Our response

To attain New Zealand residence, some migrants are required to pre-purchase English language tuition fees as part of their application. This is a requirement for family members of skilled migrants over the age of 16 who do not meet the minimum standard of English for the Resident Visa.

The pre-purchased English language tuition enables migrants to participate in English language courses which provide them with the English language skills needed for everyday life in New Zealand. Speaking and understanding English will help these migrants to settle successfully into their communities and work.

- 1. How many people in the past 12 months have paid an ESOL fee in relation to a Residence application?*
2,457 migrants pre-purchased English language tuition between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017.
- 2. How much total money has Immigration New Zealand collected in the past 12 months in relation to these fees?*
Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) received a total of \$7,299,266.29 inclusive of GST, (\$6,347,159.47 exclusive of GST) of pre-purchased English language tuition fees from Immigration New Zealand.



3. *Does Immigration New Zealand then pass these funds off to ESOL providers to ensure that applicants learn English?*

The TEC administers the pre-purchased English language tuition on behalf of Immigration New Zealand.

4. *How are the ESOL fees distributed or allocated? (Where does the fee money go)*

The TEC pays the migrant's student fees to their chosen approved Tertiary Education Organisation (TEO) on the receipt of the TEO's confirmation of the migrant's enrolment in their chosen approved Pre-purchased English Language Tuition (PELT) course(s).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact Lynne White at lynne.white@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Geoff Scott
Assistant General Manger
Visa Services
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment