



28 FEB 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2018 requesting the following information:

May I please request the following data regarding how many students in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty schools have been referred to alternative education in the last five years?

- *How many students in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty schools have been referred to alternative education in the last five years?*
- *May I please have a breakdown of how many students were referred to alternative education each year from 2013?*
- *How many Maori students from Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty schools have been referred to alternative education in the last five years?*
- *May I please have a breakdown of how many Maori students were referred to alternative education from each year from 2013?*
- *May I please have a breakdown of how many students were referred to alternative education via ethnicity from each year from 2013?*
- *What were some of the reasons students in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty schools were referred to alternative education?*

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

Alternative education is a short-term intervention that responds to the needs of young people aged 13-15 who are alienated from mainstream education. Alternative education is designed to re-engage students in a meaningful learning programme targeted to their individual needs, and support them to transition back to mainstream school, further education, training or employment.

You may be aware that the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Tracey Martin, has undertaken to review alternative education to improve the learning, employment and social outcomes for students. Initiatives that reduce the flow of young people into alternative education will also be identified.

Further information about alternative education can be accessed at the following link:

<http://alternativeeducation.tki.org.nz/>

My response to your particular questions is set out below. Please note that we do not centrally collate data on referrals made to alternative education. The below tables instead show the numbers of students placed in alternative education in the requested periods. A student may have more than one placement within a year.

The data below was extracted on 12th of February 2018.

Number of students placed in Alternative Education between 2013 and 2017, broken down by Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty

Year	Tauranga City	Western Bay of Plenty District
2013	84	15
2014	77	7
2015	70	9
2016	74	9
2017	74	9

Note: Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty refers to Tauranga City Territorial Local Authority and Western Bay of Plenty Territorial Local Authority. Please refer to the school directory for a list of schools on: <http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz>

Number of students placed in Alternative Education between 2013 and 2017 nationally

Year	Number of students
2013	2096
2014	1945
2015	1800
2016	1904
2017	1840

Number of students identifying as Maori placed in Alternative Education between 2013 and 2017, broken down by Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty.

Year	Tauranga City	Western Bay of Plenty District
2013	67	12
2014	52	5
2015	53	8
2016	53	9
2017	54	5

Note: This data uses total response ethnicity; students who identified in more than one ethnic group have been counted in each ethnic group, but only once in "Total". **Ethnic groups should not be summed as this could lead to double counting of some students.**

Number of students placed in Alternative Education between 2013 and 2017 nationally by ethnicity.

Year	Maori	European/ Pakeha	Pasifika	Asian	MELAA	Other
2013	1379	664	283	17	8	9
2014	1291	604	270	13	4	13
2015	1205	609	244	9	6	5
2016	1301	619	286	15	8	7
2017	1260	628	274	14	9	4

Note: This data uses total response ethnicity; students who identified in more than one ethnic group have been counted in each ethnic group, but only once in "Total". **Ethnic groups should not be summed as this could lead to double counting of some students.**

What were some of the reasons students in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty schools were referred to alternative education?

In order to be eligible to attend Alternative Education, a student needs to meet one of the following criteria:

1. out of a registered school for two terms or more.
2. excluded and enrolment is refused by local schools (including a history of stand-downs or suspension in the past two years).
3. has left Te Kura after enrolment in either category 1 or 2.
4. absent for at least half of the last 20 school weeks for reasons other than illness and the absence has meant they are unable to maintain a mainstream programme.
5. has multiple suspensions and risks further suspension.
6. alienated - at any one time 20% of students do not have to fit one of the first five categories above but, in the professional opinion of the school, Alternative Education is the best option for the student.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. If you have any further questions about this response please direct these to the Ministry's media team in the first instance. You also have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support