



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your phone call to the Ministry of Education on 10 July 2019 requesting the following information about licensed, centre-based, early learning services:

1. *How many licensed, centre-based, early learning services have closed over the past five years.*
2. *Of these services, how many were community-based and how many were privately-owned.*
3. *What does the Ministry know about the reasons for these closures (if possible, in respect to community-based and privately-owned separately).*
4. *The number of occurrences when an early learning service closes citing falling rolls as a reason, and a new early learning service opens in the same area, around the same time.*

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

My responses to your questions are set out below.

Questions one and two

There have been 301 centre-based early learning services close since 2014. Of these, 134 services were privately owned, and 167 services were community owned. A detailed breakdown is provided in **Appendix one**.

Question three

Please find attached within **Appendix one**, tables showing the number of centre-based (rather than home-based) early learning services that have closed, broken down by year and reason for closure. The tables are further separated into private and community owned.

Question four

There were six occurrences where an early learning service closed citing falling rolls where this has coincided with a new service opening.

To determine if a new service opened about the same time, we searched for services that opened within one month before or after the service closed. This search was further limited to closures and openings of services within a suburb (for metropolitan areas) or town.

The areas where services closed due to falling rolls, where another service opened within a month of the closure are listed below:

Suburb/Town
Manurewa
Murupara
Te Puke
Havelock North
Akina (Hastings)
Stoke (Nelson)

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your phone call. You 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

APPENDIX ONE

Type of services which were closed and reason for closure.

Closure year	Private or Community owned	Total
2014	Community owned	34
	Private owned	19
2014 Total		53
2015	Community owned	27
	Private owned	16
2015 Total		43
2016	Community owned	19
	Private owned	28
2016 Total		47
2017	Community owned	28
	Private owned	34
2017 Total		62
2018	Community owned	41
	Private owned	24
2018 Total		65
2019	Community owned	18
	Private owned	13
2019 Total		31
Grand Total		301

Reason for closure – Community owned services		
Closure year	Reason for Closure	Total
2014	Declining roll	12
	Financial reasons	6
	Licence suspended	1
	Loss of Tenancy	1
	Merger	8
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	4
2014 Total		34
2015	Change of Type	1
	Declining roll	10
	Financial reasons	4
	Merger	6
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	4
2015 Total		27
2016	Declining roll	11
	Financial reasons	1
	Loss of Tenancy	2

APPENDIX ONE

Type of services which were closed and reason for closure.

Reason for closure – Community owned services		
Closure year	Reason for Closure	TOTAL
	Merger	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	4
2016 Total		19
2017	Change of Type	4
	Declining roll	14
	Financial reasons	2
	Loss of Tenancy	1
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	2
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	4
2017 Total		28
2018	Change of Type	1
	Declining roll	9
	Financial reasons	1
	Loss of Tenancy	2
	Merger	6
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	4
	Moved premises	2
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	16
2018 Total		41
2019	Change of Type	1
	Declining roll	10
	Financial reasons	1
	Merger	1
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	2
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	2
2019 Total		18
Grand Total		167

Reason for closure – Privately owned services		
Closure year	Reason for Closure	Total
2014	Declining roll	1
	Financial reasons	3
	Merger	7
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	6
2014 Total		19
2015	Declining roll	2

APPENDIX ONE

Type of services which were closed and reason for closure.

Reason for closure – Privately owned services		
Closure year	Reason for closure	Closure year
	Loss of Tenancy	1
	Merger	10
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	2
2015 Total		16
2016	Declining roll	4
	Financial reasons	1
	Merger	8
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	2
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	12
2016 Total		28
2017	Declining roll	2
	Financial reasons	4
	Loss of Tenancy	1
	Merger	12
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	2
	Moved premises	4
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	9
2017 Total		34
2018	Declining roll	4
	Financial reasons	3
	Loss of Tenancy	4
	Merger	7
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	4
2018 Total		24
2019	Declining roll	3
	Financial reasons	1
	Loss of Tenancy	1
	Merger	4
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	2
	Moved premises	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1
2019 Total		13
Grand Total		134

APPENDIX ONE

Type of services which were closed and reason for closure.

Reason for Closure	Description
Change of type	A service's licence is cancelled if they change their service type to issue a licence or certificate under the new type. For example this would occur if an Education and Care service change to a playgroup.
Licence suspended	A service that has had its licence suspended but decides to voluntarily close.
Declining roll	The number of enrolments has decreased and the service decides to voluntarily close.
Owner Retired / Disestablished	Owner has retired or service has been disestablished voluntarily.
Withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	The Ministry of Education has withdrawn the licence of a service due to non-compliances with the licensing regulations.
Merger	A service has merged with another service and the licence has been cancelled.
Loss of Tenancy	A service has lost the tenancy of the building they are operating in and have had to close or relocate.
Financial reasons	A service has had to close due to financial reasons.
Moved premises	A service has moved to operate out of another location and the licence has been cancelled due to the change in location.