



1 November 2019



Thank you for your email of 18 September 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *I would like to know what the shortfall of ECE teachers is currently region by region and service type?*
- *What your modelling shows this will be out until 2024?*
- *The number of additional teachers you will attract with the planned initiatives, region by region, and service type out to 2024?*

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

It is important to note the Ministry does not have the same role in the early learning sector as we do with primary and secondary education. The early learning sector is made up of community and private providers that operate independently. Because of this, providers are expected to undertake workforce planning and development in their own settings. We are working to understand the workforce data available to us to build a more comprehensive picture of the early learning workforce. Accordingly, we do not collect the data you have requested and therefore your request has been refused under section 18(g) of Act as the information requested does not exist.

The Ministry is aware the early learning sector is reporting a tightening of teacher supply. The impact on individual services is likely to vary depending on the organisation's specific circumstances and their need for qualified teachers.

To assist the sector, the Ministry supported the inclusion of early childhood teachers as part of the immigration skills shortage list and our teacher supply packages are helping by including a subsidy for all teachers completing the Teacher Education Refresh to get back into teaching. Our targeted marketing campaign is aimed at encouraging more teachers back into the profession and attracting overseas qualified teachers.

We are also developing the Education Workforce Strategy which is inclusive of early learning and on which the early learning sector has been fully engaged.

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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen MacGregor-Reid', written over the printed name.

Ellen MacGregor-Reid

Deputy Secretary

Early Learning and Student Achievement