



7 November 2019



Thank you for your email of 13 September 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*Of the community owned services closing between 2014 and 2019 can you please tell me:*

- Based on the reasons given for closure – falling rolls, merger or financial reasons – can you advise if a new licensed centre opened in the same area 0-6 months before the community based service closed and 7-12 months before the community based service closed. Can this be broken down into years rather than one final sum?*
- If a new provider opened in the 0 – 6 and 7 – 12 month time frame, was this new service privately owned or community owned? If privately owned, did the new service provider operate more than 5 services (i.e. a large, multiple service provider)?*
- I am not sure how you are defining 'in the same area' but I would consider this to be for the closing ECE service. If the closing centre is near to the mesh block boundary can you include the adjacent meshblock?*

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

I apologise for the delay in responding to the follow-up request for information.

My response to your questions are set out below:

#### **Question One**

Please find attached, as **Appendix A**, the number of community owned centre-based services closing with another centre-based service opening 0 - 6 months and 7 - 12 months before its closure. They have been grouped by the reason for closure and year the community owned centre-based service closed.

**Question two**

Please find below the ownership type of the new centre-based services which opened 0 - 6 months and 7 - 12 months before the closure of the community owned centre-based service.

Ownership type	New Service (0 - 6 months before)	New Service (7- 12 months before)
Community owned	3	3
Private	13	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

Note: There are more services opening than closing, as sometimes multiple services opened in the same area during the same period of time.

Of the privately owned centre-based services that opened in the specified time periods, four of those services were associated with service providers with more than five services.

New private service providers operating more than five services	Total
0 - 6 Months before	2
7 - 12 Months before	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>

**Question three**

The area we used to determine if there were instances when an early learning service closed and another opened, was the suburb or town the services are located in.

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



Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**

**Appendix A – The number of community owned centre-based services closing with another centre-based service opening 0-6 months and 7-12 months before it's closure.**

Date of closure (year)	Reason for Closure	Number of services closing with another opening up to 6 months before	Number of services closing with another opening 7-12 months before
<b>2014</b>	Financial reasons	1	1
	Licence suspended	1	
	Merger	2	
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1	
<b>2014 Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2015</b>	Merger		2
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1	1
		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2015 Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2016</b>	Declining roll	1	1
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1	1
		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2016 Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2017</b>	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1	1
		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2017 Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2018</b>	Change of Type		1
	Declining roll	1	1
	Loss of Tenancy		1
	Merger	2	
	Ministry withdrawal of licence due to non-compliance	1	
	Owner Retired / Disestablished	1	2
<b>2018 Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2019</b>	Declining roll		2
			<b>2</b>
<b>2019 Total</b>			<b>2</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

Note: They have been grouped by the reason for closure and year the community owned centre-based service closed.