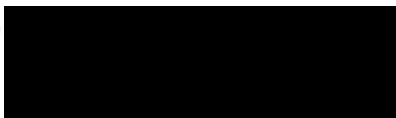





26 November 2019



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for writing to the Ministry of Education Media Team on 25 October 2019, to request the following information:

- *The number of all behavioural referrals every school and kura in the Bay of Plenty has made in the year 2019 to date.*
- *Could I please have this data in raw form, on excel.*
- *Could this data please be broken up into individual schools and sectioned by the months.*

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

We understand the behaviour of some students can be challenging. The Ministry's Behaviour Services are for children and young people who behave in a way that significantly affects their learning, risks their safety or the safety of others, and may present a barrier to forming positive relationships with others.

A referral isn't a reflection on the school the student attends, or on the behaviour of the wider student body.

A specialist lead worker works in collaboration with family and whānau, the educators, and the child or young person to explore what is contributing to the behaviour and to develop and implement an individual learning support plan.

We provide additional specialist support for educators to strengthen their capability to meet the needs of all learners. There can be many factors that contribute to challenging behaviour including past trauma, and the Behaviour Service can provide professional development for educators to help understand and manage this behaviour when it happens. The work undertaken by the learning support practitioner can involve providing support to the whole school or early learning service, groups or individual children and young people.

Behaviour Services often work in partnership with other agencies including Mental Health and Oranga Tamariki. You can find more information on this subject on our website, from: <http://education.govt.nz/behaviour-services-and-support/>

### **Support available for students and schools**

As well as the Behaviour Service, we have a range of services and supports in place for schools to help manage serious and ongoing behaviours, and also to offer training in safely responding to challenging behaviour, including:

- **Teaching for Positive Behaviour** – a resource which supports primary and secondary teachers and those in kura to understand what works in improving behaviour and increasing engagement

- **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) Restorative Practice:** A model focused on building and maintaining positive, respectful relationships across school communities which offers school staff best-practice techniques to restore relationships when things go wrong
- **Understanding Behaviour: Responding Safely (UBRS)** – behaviour management training for schools that focuses on prevention and de-escalation
- **Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service (IWS)** - provides support to students for whom existing learning support interventions and services have been fully utilised and were unable to meet the child's needs
- **Interim Response Fund (IRF)** - a short-term response to schools to address a significantly challenging behavioural event. It provides funding for a short term response while a more comprehensive intervention plan is devised; and
- **Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb)** - the Ministry also funds the national school-based RTLb service to support the achievement of students in Years 1-10 who have learning and/or behaviour difficulties.

### Your request

Between January and October 2019, we received referrals from 98 schools and kura, and 30 early learning services. Of these, six schools in the Bay of Plenty region made five or more referrals in 2019 to date:

- James Street School, Whakatane (8)
- Mountview School, Taupo (7)
- Katikati College, Katikati (7)
- Owhata School, Rotorua (5)
- Otumoetai Primary School, Tauranga (5); and
- Te Puke Primary School, Te Puke (5).

By month, the breakdown across the entire Bay of Plenty region is as follows:

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
9	14	33	42	28	25	23	34	24	15	247

I am withholding the names of schools and early learning services which referred fewer than five students under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have taken this step to avoid the possible identification of individual students.

Section 9(1) of the Act requires me to consider if there are any countervailing public interests which would override the decision to withhold information. In this instance, I believe that the privacy interests of the students concerned outweighs the public interest in releasing the names of the schools, kura or early learning service the student attended at the time of the referral.

In your request, you asked that the information be provided to you in the form of a spreadsheet. However, because of the small amount of information we are able to release, it has only been included in this letter.

Thank you again for your request. If you have any further questions on this issue, we recommend you contact the Ministry's Media Team in the first instance, at [media@education.govt.nz](mailto:media@education.govt.nz).

Under section 28(3), you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', written over the printed name.

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

Cc Ezra Schuster, **Bay of Plenty – Waiariki, Director of Education**