

09 AUG 2017



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2017, in which you request information regarding Special Education in the Wairarapa.

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

Individual responses to each part of your request are given below.

1. *the number of students in Wairarapa receiving ORS and/or ORRS funding each year from 2010 until 2017, for each year, using age ranges 5 years old - 9 years old, 10 years old - 13 years old, 14 years old - 18 years old, and 19+ years old;*
 - a) *the total number of students in Wairarapa schools;*
 - b) *the total number of ORS funded or ORRS (where applicable) funded students in Wairarapa Schools; and*
 - c) *the total number of ORS funded or ORRS (where applicable) funded students based in Wairarapa and enrolled in Te Kura.*

In regard to parts a) and b), I am providing you with the document attached as **Appendix A**. Please note that we have not included figures for 2017, as these are not yet available. As we do not hold information about the location of ORS-funded students enrolled in Te Kura, we are unable to provide you with the information you seek in relation to part c). For this reason, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist or cannot be found.

2. *the number of children identified as high level of need in Early Childhood settings in Wairarapa each year from 2010-2017.*

We are unable to provide the number of Wairarapa children participating in Early Childhood Education that were identified as being in high level of need. We cannot necessarily ascertain the specific regions in which children with high levels of needs live, as, unlike those at school, these children may not be attached to a particular service or facility. We are therefore refusing this part of the request under section 18(e), of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

3. *the number of Wairarapa teachers who attended Ministry of Education inclusive training or professional learning for supporting Special Education students each year from 2010 until 2017 by:*
 - *year;*
 - *the name of each Ministry of Education inclusive training or professional learning development;*
 - *the number of individual Wairarapa Primary School teachers who attended; and*
 - *the number of individual Wairarapa Secondary school teachers who attended.*

Thirteen Wairarapa teachers, eight primary, two intermediate, and three secondary, and representing the following schools, attended our 2014 Inclusive Practice Development Programme.

- Greytown School.
- Masterton Intermediate School.
- Pirinoa School.
- Makoura College.
- St Patrick's School, and
- Solway Primary School.

In 2015, follow-up work was done with Greytown School, Solway School, and Makoura College. In addition, in 2016, we ran workshops for Special Education and Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) staff. However, no teachers from Wairarapa schools attended these.

In the years in question before 2014, and thus far in 2017, we offered no formal inclusive education training or professional learning programmes to Wairarapa teachers. However, in 2010, as work began around the Better Public Service goals, presentations were made to Principals on the theme of 'Success for All'. At the same time, a publication was sent to schools which focused on Individual Education Plans, a component of 'Collaboration for Success'. There have also been occasional one-off Inclusive Practice workshops.

4. *for the Wairarapa Education Sector, for each of the years 2010 until 2017:*

- *the number of each type of specialist therapy service did the Ministry of Education engage to work with ORS or ORRS funded students each year;*
- *the FTE of each type of therapist;*
- *the number of each type of therapist that was contracted, and the number that were employed;*
- *any service gaps identified by the Ministry of Education for each year; and*
- *any information held by the Ministry of Education regarding workforce planning for specialist special education staff.*

The following two tables list the type of Specialist Therapy Service currently in operation in the Wairarapa, and, broken down by FTE, the type of therapist. These numbers have remained stable for the 2010 to 2017 period, as asked for in the request.

Type/FTE of Specialist Therapy Services in the Wairarapa	
Early Intervention	2.0
School Focus Behaviour	2.12
School Focus ORS	1.74
School Focus Communication	1.07
Moderate Physical	0.23

FTE by type of Specialist Staff in the Wairarapa	
Speech Language Therapist	2.6
Psychologist	1.8
Early Intervention Teacher	1.5
Occupational Therapist	1.0
Physiotherapist	0.2
Advisor on Deaf Children	0.4
Kaitakawaenga (cultural advisor)	0.5

Support is provided as necessary from other staff working across the region. These staff comprise a regional fund manager, who works closely with local service managers to ensure that students are receiving the correct support, assistive technology support, a Behaviour Support Specialist, an Incredible Years coordinator, and practice advisors.

At various times during this period, where a need was identified, three psychologists and a speech language therapist were contracted to provide services. These contractors are in addition to the FTE allocations as noted in the table at the bottom of the previous page.

We have identified no service gaps relating to Special Education in the Wairarapa through the requested period, and consequently have no particular information regarding workforce planning. However, our managers are constantly reviewing our workforce needs, and our recruitment processes are designed to ensure that the most suitable and qualified people are employed to these various roles.

5. *Regarding the 2015 Special Education Update Wellington region (Porirua, Hutt Valley, Masterton, Wellington city) project, as found at the following link:*

<https://education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Initiatives/special-education-update/Special-Education-Update-Projects-Nov2015.pdf>

any information, reports, and updates on the project, including, specifically for Masterton and/or Wairarapa:

- *any service gaps that were identified and addressed; and*
- *what was done to raise teachers' ability to teach a range of diverse learning needs.*

In Porirua, in 2016, we trialled Early Access Support, a culturally appropriate service aiming to make it easier for providers of Early Childhood Education to initiate Special Education referrals.

Another response introduced was the regional 'Planned Pathway', in which we ensured that a transition plan was put in place for all children in our service transitioning from Early Intervention to the schooling system. These transition plans are discussed and developed by all stakeholders: parents and caregivers, teachers, community agencies, support workers, and learning support specialists.

In relation to service gaps, I can advise that no such gaps were identified in the Wairarapa. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. However, in 2016, a Ministry-led Parent-Whānau Engagement Group was trialled as a way of getting advice and information to help better plan and deliver the region's special education services. Ideas emerging from the group have been shared as necessary with the relevant schools.

When considering the provision of services in relation to those students in receipt of learning support, our focus is on growing capacity and capability in the education sector. We aim to build on existing inclusive practices to enable teachers to better meet their students' needs.

6. *any information regarding:*

- *any requests for a special school or unit or class to be based in Wairarapa;*
- *an identified need for a special school or unit or class to be based in Wairarapa;*
- *any advice regarding a special school or unit or class to be based in Wairarapa; and*
- *any analysis regarding a special school or unit or class to be based in Wairarapa.*

We have not received any formal requests for new special schools, units, or classes to be based in the Wairarapa, nor identified a need for any additional provision of services in the area. As such, we have not undertaken any analysis or provided any advice on this matter. For this reason, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you seek does not exist or cannot be found.

Wairarapa College's Supported Learning Centre, where 19 students are receiving support through the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme is the only Centre of its kind in the Wairarapa. The Ministry supports the Centre with Teacher Aide hours, specialist teacher time, and a consumables allowance. We have learning support staff working with the Centre to support teachers and staff to meet the students' needs.

Other Wairarapa secondary schools provide support within the mainstream class setting. Should students require greater individual input, onsite breakout or supported learning spaces are available.

If you have any questions about this response, please feel free to contact the Manager of the Ministry's Official and Parliamentary Information Team, Simon Sanders, at simon.sanders@education.govt.nz or by phone on 04 439 5005.

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.

I hope this response has been of use to you.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Total Students and ORS funded students in Wairarapa by age group (As at 1 July 2010-2016)

	5 - 9 years		10 - 13 years		14-18 years		19+ years		Total	
	Total number of Students	Number of ORS funded students	Total number of Students	Number of ORS funded students	Total number of Students	Number of ORS funded students	Total number of Students	Number of ORS funded students	Total number of Students	Number of ORS funded students
2010	3,930	31	3,236	22	3,051	36	16	6	10,233	95
2011	4,004	30	3,164	23	3,055	35	23	7	10,246	95
2012	4,077	33	3,154	25	2,980	35	27	6	10,238	99
2013	4,137	33	3,101	26	2,931	30	22	8	10,191	97
2014	4,160	35	3,128	31	2,918	32	18	6	10,224	104
2015	4,251	40	3,168	30	2,864	30	22	8	10,305	108
2016	4,257	39	3,225	34	2,906	28	20	6	10,408	107

Note: Wairarapa includes schools in the territorial authorities of Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa and Tararua