



10 September 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2021 to the Ministry of Education and subsequent clarification of 5 August 2021 requesting the following information:

1. *The amount that has been given to ECE providers in the way of subsidies in the past four years (2017-2020) and so far this year (2021).*
2. *Please break these down (eg. the 20 hours for over threes, any other subsidies) and state what kind of provider this is (eg daycare, kindergarten etc).*
3. *All reports to the Minister of Education or research from 2017-2021 on the connection between early learning subsidies and early learning participation.*
4. *Any advice provided to Ministers from 2017-2021 on increasing subsidies for under 3s to reduce the costs for parents or to increase participation from this age group.*

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

Question One and Two

As per our previous correspondence on 5 August 2021, subsidy information for 2017- 2020 is publicly available on Education Counts. I am providing you with the most recent subsidy information to date, attached in **Appendix A**. These are the ECE subsidy figures for the 2020/21 financial year up to May 2021, broken down by subsidy and provider types.

The figures reported are actual funding entitlement amounts, calculated on 'Funded Child Hours' (FCHs), which are paid retrospectively. As such, the subsidy and equity funding amounts shown are for only 11 months' funding (to May 2021). For targeted funding, a full 12 months' funding is shown. Please note that all figures are provisional and subject to final consideration.

Question Three

We have not identified any reports to the Minister of Education or Ministry-held research on the connection between early subsidies and early learning participation dated between 2017-2020. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.

You may be interested to know that in 2014 ECE affordability as a factor affecting Early Learning participation rates was reported on. The report discusses the impact of the 20 Hours ECE subsidy on cost as a barrier to access, and can be found at the following link:

[Affordability of early childhood education | Education Counts](#)

Question Four

As advised in our previous letter on 20 August 2021, we have transferred this part of your request to the Treasury under section 14(b)(i) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry. You can expect to receive a response directly from them in due course.

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 email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schöllmann', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy