




23 September 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 5 August 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting information about guidance counselling in the New Zealand education system, with specific reference to Christchurch High Schools. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As per our letter of 2 September 2021, a number of your questions seek information held by individual schools and universities rather than the Ministry and have accordingly been transferred to those institutions for response.

Attached to this response as **Appendix A**, is an overview of all your questions and which institutions are answering which questions.

Set out below is my response to those parts of your request which remain with the Ministry for response.

1. Does the Ministry of Education allocate any funding to schools for counselling services?
2. If so, how much is allocated each year?

Budget 2020 provided at total of \$75.8m over four years to increase access to counselling in schools. \$31.8m has been allocation to fund an increase of 0.4 Full-Time Teacher Equivalents (FTTE) in the guidance staffing entitlement for large secondary schools, meaning schools with more than 450 students. Secondary schools had existing counselling staff entitlement, which provided a maximum entitlement per school of 2.3 FTTE. A further \$44m has been allocated to increase access to counselling support for some primary and secondary schools through contracts with community organisations.

Around 90 new Full-Time Teacher Equivalent guidance counsellor positions have been established across 215 large secondary schools and kura. We do not, however, collect information on school spend of their staffing entitlement, the work undertaken by Guidance Counsellors employed by schools, or the number of students receiving counselling services.

The table below shows the detail of spend across both counselling funding streams (i.e. large secondary and primary and small secondary schools) for 2020/21-2023/24.

Component	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & outyears	Total
Large Secondary Schools					
Guidance Staff – Staffing Entitlement increase	4.427	9.136	9.136	9.136	31.835
Primary and Small Secondary Schools					
Procurement of services	5.215	11.074	11.074	11.074	38.437
Evaluation	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.500	1.850
Regional office staffing (6 FTEs including overheads)	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.930	3.720
Total Primary and Small Secondary	6.595	12.454	12.454	12.504	44.007
Total	11.022	21.590	21.590	21.640	75.842

Table 1: Counselling Funding for schools from 2020 to 2024

3. Has this allocation increased in the last five years? If so, by how much?

The Ministry of Education funds counselling and guidance staff in secondary schools through guidance staffing entitlement. Guidance staffing is calculated based on a set formula of 0.08 to 0.45 full-time teacher equivalent (FTE), depending on roll size, for each year level taught from year 9-13. This is a component of entitlement staffing, which is used to help schools employ teachers, including guidance counsellors. Schools decide how they use their entitlement staffing to best meet the needs of their students and local community. As such, this is information held by the schools themselves and not collated or held centrally. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold this information, nor do we believe any other agency would hold this information centrally.

4. How does the Ministry of Education decide what amount of funding goes to what school?

When it comes to contracting community providers, the contracts with preferred suppliers identified through the procurement process are being finalised as we identify and confirm where services will be delivered. The identification of the schools who will receive the contracted counselling support is being determined by factors such as the availability of suitable providers and whether there are existing supports available to them. We also prioritise those schools with the greatest needs, which we identify through the use of tools such as the Equity Index.

5. How many permanent counsellors the school has? And what hours they work?

6. Whether the number of employed counsellors has increased or decreased within the past five years?

Attached to this response as **Appendix B** is a list of all high schools within the territorial authority of Christchurch, the number of counsellors they have, total paid hours and how these have changed over the past five years. I am releasing this to you in full.

As was discussed with you on the phone, we have also arranged for a contact person in Christchurch to discuss the issue of counselling access in Christchurch with you. [REDACTED] the [REDACTED], has kindly agreed to be this person, and can be contacted at:

[REDACTED]

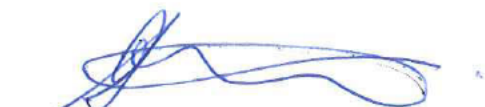
7. Does the Ministry of Education allocate any funding to universities for counselling services?
8. If so, how much is allocated each year?
9. Has this allocation increased in the last five years? If so, by how much?
10. How does the Ministry of Education decide what amount of funding goes to what university?

Tertiary providers, including but not exclusively universities, receive funding from a variety of government grants. Most of the government funding to universities and other tertiary education providers is enrolment-based funding, which is to support delivery of tertiary tuition and training. The government does not specifically fund counselling services for tertiary providers, though they may charge students a Compulsory Student Services Fee to help fund the costs of delivering services and facilities that support students and enhance their academic experience. This includes providing non-academic counselling and pastoral care, such as chaplains. More information on these grants, what they are targeting, who can apply for them, and current receivers of these funds, can be found [here](#) at the Tertiary Education Commission. Information about the number of enrolled students can be found [here](#) on Education Counts.'

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



Helen Hurst
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

cc: Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury

Appendix A

Appendix A

Question	Source of answer
For counselling in schools	
Does the Ministry of Education allocate any funding to schools for counselling services?	The Ministry of Education
If so, how much is allocated each year?	
Has this allocation increased in the last five years? If so, by how much?	
How does the Ministry of Education decide what amount of funding goes to what school?	
For each high school in Christchurch	
How many permanent counsellors the school has? And what hours they work?	The Ministry of Education.
Whether the amount of employed counsellors has increased or decreased within the past five years?	
Whether the school has employed any temporary counsellors and if so, for how long and during what time period?	These questions have been transferred to the following high schools: 1. Rangiora High School 2. Kaiapoi High School 3. St Bedes College 4. Papanui High School 5. Burnside High School 6. Shirley Boys' High School 7. Aranui High School 8. Avonside Girls' High School 9. Villa Maria College 10. Christchurch Boys' High School 11. Christchurch Girls' High School - Te Kura o Hine Waiora 12. St Thomas of Canterbury College 13. Riccarton High School 14. Hagley Community College 15. Linwood College 16. Hornby High School 17. Hillmorton High School 18. Darfield High School 19. Lincoln High School 20. Mount Hutt College 21. Ellesmere College 22. Ashburton College
How many students are seen by an individual counsellor a week?	
Whether there are waiting lists to see a counsellor?	
Has the school seen an increase in students wanting to see counsellors over the past five years? (how many students have been seen by a counsellor each year for the past five years?)	
The themes of what students are coming to speak to counsellors about?	
On average, how often are the students visiting the counsellors – are they usually one-off visits or on a more frequent basis?	
How many students are currently enrolled?	

	23. Geraldine High School 24. Mackenzie College 25. Craighead Diocesan School 26. Roncalli College 27. Mountainview High School 28. Timaru Boys' High School 29. Timaru Girls' High School 30. Rangiora New Life School 31. Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery 32. Haeata Community Campus 33. TKKM o Te Whanau Tahī
For each university in NZ	
How many permanent counsellors the university has? And what hours they work?	These questions have been transferred to the following Universities to answer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Auckland 2. Auckland University of Technology 3. Waikato University 4. Massey University 5. Victoria University Wellington 6. Lincoln University 7. Canterbury University 8. University of Otago
Whether the amount of employed counsellors has increased or decreased within the past five years?	
Whether the university has employed any temporary counsellors and if so, for how long and during what time period?	
How many students are seen by an individual counsellor a week?	
Whether there are waiting lists to see a counsellor and how long these are?	
Has the university seen an increase in students wanting to see counsellors over the past five years?	
How many students have seen a counsellor at least once each year for the past five years?	
What themes are students coming to speak to counsellors about?	
On average, how often are the students visiting the counsellors – are they usually one-off visits or on a more frequent basis?	
How many students are currently enrolled?	

Does the Ministry of Education allocate any funding to universities for counselling services?	The Ministry of Education
If so, how much is allocated each year?	
Has this allocation increased in the last five years? If so, by how much?	
How does the Ministry of Education decide what amount of funding goes to what university?	