



18 November 2021

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your requests of 6 and 8 October 2021 to the Ministry of Education for information regarding the three residential specialist schools, Salisbury, Westbridge and Halswell.

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

1) What was the total cost to run each of the following Residential Special Schools for the year ended 30 June 2021 (or 30 June 2020) and what was the average number of students enrolled for the year;

- a) *Westbridge Residential School*
- b) *Halswell Residential College, and*
- c) *Salisbury School*

The total cost to run each of the schools is covered in the financial reports provided as the attached **Appendix A** (Salisbury Reports) and attached **Appendix B** (Halswell and Westbridge Combined Reports).

The median number of students enrolled from June 2020 till June 2021 was:

- Westbridge - 8
- Salisbury - 4
- Halswell - 9

The schools' rolls fluctuate as students enter and leave across the year, impacted by factors including demand for 24/7 support, applications for enrolment being successful, and length of enrolment determined by the student's Specialist Education Agreement.

We have provided the actual roll at 3 different times to demonstrate variability.

	Westbridge	Salisbury	Halswell
June 2020	4	5	9
December 2020	13	5	13
June 2021	7	2	8

2) What was the average cost per student for year ended 30 June 2021 (or 30 June 2020) under Te Kāhu Toi (the community based IWS service for children and whanau)? Please do not include students enrolled at Residential Special Schools.

The average IWS funding per student is \$39,524, inclusive of costs related to implementing the student's plan and Ministry psychologists and facilitators working with the young person and their family.

In addition to IWS support, there are other funds that schools (state and state integrated) receive to support their students including operational funding, salary funding for teachers and property funding.

This is also the answer to part ten of your request.

3) What was the average cost per student for the year ended 30 June 2021 (or 30 June 2020) for a student enrolled at their local school with ORS High Needs funding (.1 additional teacher time)?

We have taken your question to mean the average total ORS funding per verified student. There is no average, this is a set amount as outlined above. All amounts are GST inclusive, as at 30 October 2021.

Each ORS student verified as high needs generates a total of \$15,181.49

Each ORS students verified as very high student generates a total \$ 24,210.49

A small consumables grant is provided for each verified student.

In addition to the totals above each student generates an amount of specialist teacher time. Additional teaching time is allocated directly to the school for each student at: .1 FTE for high needs and .2 FTE for very high needs.

In addition to the ORS funded amount there are other funds that schools (state and state integrated) receive to support their students including operational funding, salary funding for teachers, property funding.

Assumptions

We have calculated the average cost of a 0.1 FTE specialist teacher by using Step 8 of the teachers collective which equates to \$9,029.00.

For further information on how the amounts are calculated you may like to visit the following pages on the Ministry's website [Ongoing Resourcing Scheme](#).

4) How many staff are currently employed by each of the three Residential Special Schools Salisbury School, Halswell Residential College and Westbridge Residential School? How many of these staff are registered teachers?

As per your earlier email of 26 October 2021, you no longer require this information.

5) How many students are currently enrolled at each school?

As of the 1 October 2021:

- Halswell Residential College – 8
- Salisbury School – 3
- Westbridge Residential School – 3

6) Does Salisbury School currently provide an outreach service? If so, what is the current minimum number of students catered for?

Salisbury School does not provide an outreach service.

7) Does Halswell Residential College currently provide an outreach service? If so, what is the current maximum number of students catered for?

Halswell Residential College does not provide an outreach service

8) In 2020/2021 (or if these figures are not available please provide data for 2019/2020) how much did Government invest in each student who attended a Residential Special School in the year, compared to \$84,200 in 2010?

We do not have figures for total government investment per student at residential specialist schools. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

As you will be aware, RSS are not funded in the same way as state and integrated schools. In addition to funding to schools (related to operations, salary and property) there is investment in residences which are fixed costs and do not vary with rolls.

9) What was the annual investment in each student who attends a state and integrated (or non-residential) school in 2020/2021 (or 2019/2020) compared to approximately \$7,700 in 2010?

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as information on per student funding, calculated as the sum of operational grant and teacher salaries, per student is available here [Per Student Funding for Schools | Education Counts](#)

This is a weighted average, calculated for state and state integrated schools only, excluding funding to specialist schools.

10) What was the annual investment in each student who meets the criteria to receive support through an intensive wrap-around service in 2020/2021 (or 2019/2020) compared to approximately \$29,000 in 2010?

Please refer to question two.

11) What proportions of students who attend Residential Special Schools now live in the North Island?

Students enrolled in RSS can come from any part of the country. The proportion of students who normally reside in the North Island varies over time. As of 8 October,

- Salisbury School - 0 of 3 students enrolled came from the North Island

- Westbridge Residential School – 3 of 3 students enrolled came from the North Island
- Halswell Residential College – 3 of 8 students enrolled came from the North Island
- Six students of the total combined roll of 14 were from the North Island (43%)

12) We understand that in 2012 the Ministry asked the Boards of Salisbury and Halswell to pilot an outreach service using surplus funding from the difference between the school's actual and notional rolls. This outreach service was to support learners in their local school and communities by developing individualised wraparound support. Because most learners who would receive an outreach service are in the upper North Island, and Salisbury and Halswell are in the South Island, this outreach service was to be a temporary measure for 2012, while a more sustainable solution was developed. Please advise;

a) The outcome of this pilot and details of any evaluation carried out?

The Ministry of Education does not have a formal evaluation of the pilot outreach services that were run for a short period of time from the residential specialist schools. The programmes did not endure as they were not considered to be effective. Halswell Residential College had also operated a transition unit out of Hillmorton High School. Salisbury and Halswell students attended Halswell unit at Hillmorton High School on leaving the RSS for effective transitioning to their local school. This unit was closed in 2013 as the young people moved into community schools supported by Te Kahu Tōi.

b) Details of the more sustainable solution that was to be developed?

In 2011, Te Kahu Tōi offered a new support option for Rangatahi with high levels of need at home, at school and in the community. Rangatahi could spend some time in a Residential Specialist School as part of their Te Kahu Tōi plan. Te Kahu Tōi as a community focused process, was recognised as a more sustainable and inclusive approach in line with the Ministry of Education commitment to inclusive education.

c) What steps were taken to address the overfunding of Residential Special Schools caused by using the notional roll as a basis for allocating funding?

Over the last four years the Ministry of Education has worked with financial experts alongside the residential specialist schools to determine a funding formula that will more accurately align allocated funding with actual rolls.

A formula based on actual costs have now been agreed with the RSS. The implications of this on notional rolls is still to be determined.

13) What were the notional rolls for each school for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Halswell	32	32	32	32	32
Salisbury*	20 (effective term 2)	20	20	20	20
Westbridge	32	32	32	32	32

14) How were these notional rolls calculated, given that it would appear these far exceeded the actual rolls for each school over this period and therefore appear not to be based on the expected average number of enrolments?

The notional roll numbers are based on multiples of eight, as each villa at Halswell Residential School (the most modern of the three Residential Specialist Schools) houses eight children. The schools and the Ministry of Education agreed on a notional roll of 32 (four villas) for Halswell Residential College and Westbridge Residential School. The actual role of Salisbury was considerably lower and a roll of 20 was agreed to.

15) What was the approximate surplus funding received by each school over each of the last five years? (i.e., the difference between the actual and notional rolls)

The Schools Notional Rolls have been the same for the last 5 years as follows:

- Westbridge: 32
- Halswell: 32
- Salisbury: 20

The latest July roll data is available at [School Rolls | Education Counts](#).

General Financial Information on the schools is also available at the following links:

- [Westbridge Residential School: Government funding - Finances | Education Counts](#)
- [Halswell Residential College: Government funding - Finances | Education Counts](#)
- [Salisbury School \(Nelson\): Government funding - Finances | Education Counts](#)

16) Were the three Residential Special School able to retain this surplus?

Yes, they are as the School Boards manage these.

17) If so, what were these surpluses used on? What were the Ministry's expectations as to the use of this surplus funding and what, if any, conditions were set around this spending?

RSS are funded through a resourcing notice and an accompanying service specification which describes the allocation of resourcing. Any surplus would go into the RSS reserves and would be expected to be used to deliver on the schools' strategic objectives.

18) I would like to add to my request that I be provided with the Annual Reports and full audited financial statements of each of the three RSS – Halswell and Westbridge, and Salisbury for the past 10 years i.e. 2010 to 2020 inclusive. I am aware that all schools are required by law to provide a copy to the Ministry of Education and that you will therefore have these on file and that it should be an relatively easy exercise to forward copies to me by email.

As per our email to you on 29 October, the 2020 annual report and financial statement for Salisbury School has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act. The remaining annual reports and financial audits have been provided to you as the attached **Appendix A** (Salisbury Reports) and attached **Appendix B** (Halswell and Westbridge Combined Reports).

We note that for the 2013 Salisbury report and the 2010 – 2012 Halswell and Westbridge reports were unable to be located. We have instead provided a spreadsheet of financials to cover these periods as part of the Appendices provided.

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. 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wales'.

Dr David Wales
National Director Learning Support
Poutohu Matua Te Hāpai Ō Rāngi, Te Pae Aronui