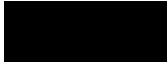




24 November 2022



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 5 October 2022 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

a list of the amount of Government subsidies given to daycare operators/companies.

I would like this organised for the top 20 subsidy amounts given to individual companies, including the amount and the name of the operator.

When I say daycare companies, where there's one umbrella owner, I mean all subsidies for that operator - eg. Best Start as a whole, all of Evolve Education, Provincial - Busy Bees and Kindercare (who I believe are the biggest four players in NZ childcare.) Can you also state how many centres each company runs/forms part of that total subsidy amount, and children if this is known.

I would like this for 2021 and so far this year, and if it's possible to get 2019 and 2020 as well.

In response to your request, we have provided the attached **Appendix A**, which gives a breakdown of 2019, 2020 and 2021 subsidies provided to service providers. For the purpose of this request, we have interpreted 'subsidy' to mean the ECE operational funding paid to licensed early learning services. The tables attached include the following payments: ECE Subsidy, 20 Hours ECE, Equity Funding, Targeted Funding for Disadvantage, Annual Top-up for Isolated Services (ATIS) funding and payments made to early learning services as part of the response to COVID-19.

We are currently finalising the payment information for 2022. We will endeavour to provide this to you as soon as possible, and in any case, will provide you with an update on or before **15 December 2022**.

The 2022 information will include all payments made during the March 2022 and July 2022 funding rounds. Information for the November 2022 funding round will only include payments made on 1 November 2022 and 21 November 2022. These initial payments represent the majority of funding paid during the November funding round. However, this information will not include payments processed in our December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 funding rounds.

We are unable to state how many children are covered in the subsidy amounts paid. This is because ECE Operational Funding is claimed by the service for all children attending, and the individual claim generated by a child cannot be easily separated out. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested

is not held, and we have no grounds for believing that it is either held by, or more closely related to the functions of, another department or organisation subject to the Act.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes official information 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.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Karen Walfisch

Associate Deputy Secretary

Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

APPENDIX A

Top 20 Service Providers by ECE Operational Funding - 2019		
Service Provider Name	Amount (GST inclusive)	Number of Services
Best Start Educare Limited	\$ 221,929,869.74	270
Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust	\$ 95,493,259.42	443
Auckland Kindergarten Association	\$ 53,272,960.00	111
He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated	\$ 50,775,985.28	103
Kindercare Learning Centres Ltd	\$ 49,917,902.34	49
Lollipops Educare Centres Limited	\$ 27,585,161.13	32
Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc	\$ 25,977,000.75	72
Evolve Group 5 Ltd	\$ 24,442,519.48	29
Central North Island Kindergarten Trust	\$ 23,808,159.45	49
PEG 2 Limited	\$ 20,933,317.15	23
Evolve Group 3 Ltd	\$ 20,213,120.80	24
Barnardos New Zealand Incorporated	\$ 17,470,199.16	43
Waikato Kindergarten Association	\$ 16,757,165.74	29
PEG 1 Limited	\$ 16,201,570.45	22
PORSE In-Home Childcare (NZ) Ltd	\$ 16,041,891.54	53
PEG 3 Limited	\$ 14,999,654.65	16
Evolve Group 2 Ltd	\$ 13,970,863.91	19
Ruahine Kindergarten Association	\$ 11,558,068.88	26
Nelson District Free Kindergarten Association	\$ 11,540,033.19	22
Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association Inc.	\$ 11,535,458.68	26

Top 20 Service Providers by ECE Operational Funding - 2020		
Service Provider Name	Amount (GST inclusive)	Number of Services
Best Start Educare Limited	\$ 231,583,768.53	270
Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust	\$ 122,039,153.63	441
He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated	\$ 59,402,852.47	104
Auckland Kindergarten Association	\$ 58,139,320.30	111
Kindercare Learning Centres Ltd	\$ 51,091,142.59	48
Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc	\$ 28,178,391.14	68
Central North Island Kindergarten Trust	\$ 25,935,938.06	50
Lollipops Educare Centres Limited	\$ 24,515,730.67	32
Evolve Group 5 Ltd	\$ 23,130,634.22	26
PEG 2 Limited	\$ 20,257,936.83	23
PEG 3 Limited	\$ 19,523,749.41	22
Evolve Group 3 Ltd	\$ 18,162,473.11	24
Waikato Kindergarten Association	\$ 18,093,658.77	29
PEG 1 Limited	\$ 17,379,378.46	25
Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa - Playcentre Aotearoa	\$ 16,636,617.31	407
Barnardos New Zealand Incorporated	\$ 16,435,723.29	43
PORSE In-Home Childcare (NZ) Ltd	\$ 15,397,500.55	53
Ruahine Kindergarten Association	\$ 13,627,915.10	25
Nelson District Free Kindergarten Association	\$ 13,607,023.08	23
New Shoots Children's Centre Limited	\$ 13,072,127.68	12

Top 20 Service Providers by ECE Operational Funding - 2021		
Service Provider Name	Amount (GST inclusive)	Number of Services
Best Start Educare Limited	\$ 248,880,163.98	276
Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust	\$ 133,659,300.91	436
He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated	\$ 65,153,689.80	104
Auckland Kindergarten Association	\$ 61,045,279.10	110
Kindercare Learning Centres Ltd	\$ 58,605,159.49	48
Lollipops Educare Centres Limited	\$ 47,923,080.41	114
PEG 1 Limited	\$ 32,970,688.38	35
Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc	\$ 31,251,343.26	68
Central North Island Kindergarten Trust	\$ 26,969,177.23	50
PEG 3 Limited	\$ 22,509,227.88	22
PEG 2 Limited	\$ 20,727,420.78	22
Waikato Kindergarten Association	\$ 18,542,112.08	29
Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa - Playcentre Aotearoa	\$ 17,557,277.72	407
New Shoots Children's Centre Limited	\$ 17,507,947.40	14
Ruahine Kindergarten Association	\$ 17,002,469.79	25
Barnardos New Zealand Incorporated	\$ 16,334,066.87	40
Tauranga Regional Kindergarten Association	\$ 15,359,813.59	27
Evolve Group 5 Ltd	\$ 15,258,276.68	25
Northland Kindergarten Association	\$ 15,036,991.63	25
Nelson District Free Kindergarten Association	\$ 14,471,855.43	22

Note:

Payment Amount

This represents the amount of funding paid to a service provider for funding rounds that occurred in that calendar year. For example, the 2021 year represents payments made as part of the March 2021, July 2021 and November 2021 funding rounds.

Funding captured in this amount includes the ECE Subsidy, 20 Hours ECE, Equity Funding, Targeted Funding for Disadvantage, Annual Top-up for Isolated Services (ATIS) funding and payments made to early learning services as part of the response to COVID-19.

Count of Services

This represents the number of services under a service provider who had funding processed for at least one funding round during that calendar year.