



20 May 2021



Tēnā koe 

On 7 April 2021, the Ministry of Health transferred part of your 1 March 2021 request to the Ministry of Education to respond to. The Ministry of Education is providing information relating to the two Vote Education initiatives, An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care and Sensitive Claims of Abuse: Funding to Resolve and Acknowledge Historic Abuse in the Schooling System.

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

An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care. This initiative aims to ensure the Crown can engage with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care in a full, timely and joined-up manner, to help the Royal Commission achieve its vision of "Transforming the way we, as a nation, care for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our communities."

The *Sensitive Claims of Abuse: Funding to Resolve and Acknowledge Historic Abuse in the Schooling System* initiative aims to ensure the resolution of claims against the Crown for allegations of historic physical, psychological and sexual abuse that occurred at a school, including residential special schools. This will be approached through an alternative dispute resolution process where the Ministry of Education works directly with claimants to resolve their grievances.

You can find information on the allocated budget amounts for both Vote Education Budget initiatives on pages 10 and 16 of the *Vote Education - Education and Workforce Sector - Estimates 2019/20* report on The Treasury's website [here](#).

The spent amounts for the two Vote Education Budget initiatives for 2019/20 and 2020/21 (up to 31 March 2021) are:

Initiative	Spend 2019/20 \$000	Spend 2020/21 ¹ \$000
An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care	358	n/a
Sensitive Claims of Abuse: Funding to Resolve and Acknowledge Historic Abuse in the Schooling System	479	984

¹ Spend amounts are up to 31 March 2021 and do not constitute the full financial year.

These figures represent spend that can be directly attributed to each initiative. You should be aware that these figures are not reflective of all of the costs involved with these two initiatives and that there is a degree of flexibility for funding. There are costs of permanent Ministry of Education staff that are funded out of the Ministry's baseline which have not been included as it is not possible to separate out the cost of their work on these initiatives from other work they are undertaking.

An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care had no appropriation for Vote Education for Budget 2020/21. In Budget 2020/21 the funding for this initiative was attributed entirely to Vote Oranga Tamariki and not to the individual votes as in Budget 2019/20. The Ministry of Education has had \$500,000 attributed from Vote Oranga Tamariki to cover Ministry of Education costs.

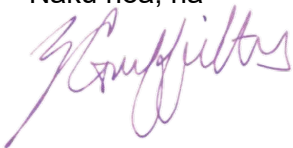
The allocated funding for the Sensitive Claims is based on historic information on the likely costs to resolve claims. As the particulars of claims and their associated costs are not known until a claim is made this can result in either underspend or overspend. This detail is captured at the above link.

Please note that Vote Education is not the only Government Vote for the Budget initiative *An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care*. Because of this, the Ministry of Education will only be providing the allocated and spent amounts attributed to Vote Education. You can expect to receive a response from the other Votes for their allocated and spent amounts. The other Votes for this initiative are Vote Oranga Tamariki, Vote State Services, Vote Courts, Vote Health, and Vote Internal Affairs.

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



Zoe Griffiths
Deputy Secretary
Business Enablement and Support