



8/02/2024



Tēnā koe



OIA: 1320175– SHHNF Regional funding differences

Thank you for your email of 29 November 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. Are there currently regional differences in relation to maximum hours a Teacher Aide may be funded for to assist with a child's Type 1 diabetes care at School utilising the SHHNF.*
- 2. There are many reports of some regions having a maximum allowance of 15 hours and others up to full time. Does this variance in regions exist and are there different policies to support this and if it does exist are there plans to have a consistent national approach and when is this expected?*

I understand there are differences in age due to working towards getting children to self-management which is entirely appropriate.

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

The School High Health Needs Fund (SHHNF) is a resource provided to ākonga who are verified and meet the criteria for the SHHNF. This is intended as a short-term resource, and the allocation should not remain the same throughout their time in the fund, as it is time-limited and determined by need. Through teaching and supporting ākonga to increase their independence in managing their needs, following best practice guidelines, they are able to move off the fund, with a few exceptions.

In response to **part 1** of your request, the Ministry's regional offices are the fundholder of the SHHNF resources, and these are managed locally; there are regional differences with how the fund is allocated. Ākonga need is assessed through regular conversations with their schools and reference to their care plans. The team supporting the ākonga at school meet regularly to create and review care plans, including progress toward independence and the level of support required.

In response to **part 2** of your request, the regional difference in funding is determined by ākonga need. Ākonga with type one diabetes can remain in the SHHNF until the end of the term in which they turn 11 years old. At this age, their needs have usually moved to being moderate and can be resourced within school. How the level of support is allocated is described above. Some ākonga



with type one diabetes will need support beyond age 11, and there is opportunity for schools to have the decision reviewed. The Ministry provides information to schools advising what to do next if there remains a high need or there are comorbidities affecting ākonga ability to self-manage safely.

The below table is extracted from the advice to staff on the SHHNF, and provides guidance on how to allocate ākonga funding. Please note that this a guideline only, and there will always be variability dependant on student need.

New to primary schooling/new to Diabetes	Gaining maturity/familiarity with condition	Heading towards independent management
Higher level funding: 15-20 hours/week	Moderate level funding: 5-15 hours/week	Lower-level funding: 0-5 hours/week

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

Nāku noa, nā



Michelle Ashby
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Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)