



22/04/2024

Sally Kidd
fyi-request-26037-bcccaa21@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sally

OIA: 1324542 – Physical Disabilities services

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2024, and clarification of 18 March 2024, to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

Could you please provide me with the number of children [for the 2022/2023 Financial year] who have been referred to the Physical Disabilities services in New Zealand, and the number that have been successful in their application and since received services.

Could I please also have a breakdown of these applications on geographical locations.

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

In most parts of New Zealand, the physical disability service is provided by the Ministry. In some areas this service is provided by other specialist providers. There are five contracted providers (four specialist schools and external provider OTRS). In areas where the Ministry is the provider, schools send their requests for support to their local Ministry office to be processed. Schools who are in the areas that use other providers send their requests for support straight to the provider for processing.

I note that data recorded by the Ministry for Ministry delivered services is held separately to data recorded by the five contracted providers.

In **Table One** in **Appendix A**, I am providing you with data on Physical Disabilities services delivered by the Ministry at a national and regional level for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

When schools make requests for support to the Ministry, the requests are processed by each regional office and the jobs are allocated accordingly. There are a number of ways in which a school can request support, including through a form. Schools do not request a particular service, rather they request support by describing a presenting learning and wellbeing need.

All requests that come to the Ministry, no matter what the need, are processed and loaded into the Ministry Client Management System and the appropriate Service Manager works with the school and their specialist team to decide on next steps. For this reason, there is not specific data

collected on requests related to services, as the response to the request will be dependent on the needs of the child, not a specified service.

This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by or connected more closely with the functions of another department or agency subject to the Act.

For the five contracted providers I am providing you with information about their requests for support and their number of delivered services in **Tables Two and Three** in **Appendix A**. The information is collected by the providers and reported on annually to the Ministry. Some providers report on calendar years as opposed to financial years. Where this is the case, I am providing you with their reported data for 2022 and 2023 **calendar** years.

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
General Manager, Learning Support
Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)

Appendix A

Table One: Ministry provided Physical Disabilities services in New Zealand at a National and Regional Level for the Financial Year 2022/2023

Regions	FY22/23
Tai Tokerau	16
Auckland	133
Waikato	37
Bay of Plenty, Wairariki	60
Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti	11
Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū	55
Wellington	40
Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	67
Canterbury, Chatham Islands	100
Otago, Southland	111
National	630

Please note:

- Data was extracted on the 01/07/2023.
- Data reflects the number of services granted rather than the number of children. Sometimes a child may receive more than one service during a year or throughout their schooling. In these cases, the service may have finished but needs to start again later based on the child's changing needs or changing circumstances.

Table Two: Physical Disability Service OTRS provider data for the 2022/2023 Financial Year

Year	Physical Disability provider	Number of Applications / referrals received	Number of Successful applications
FY 22/23	OTRS	15	10

Please note:

- Data has been sourced from the OTRS annual report and has not been verified by the Ministry.

Table Three: Physical Disability Service provider data for the calendar years 2022 and 2023

Year	Physical Disability provider	Number of Applications / referrals received	Number of Successful applications
2022	Lincoln Heights School	10	8
	Waitakere College	21	19
	Papatoetoe South School	118	82
	Kimi Ora School	38	12
2023	Lincoln Heights School	5	3
	Waitakere College	19	14
	Papatoetoe South School	101	54
	Kimi Ora School*	46*	32*

Please note:

- Data has been sourced from providers annual reports and has not been verified by the Ministry.
- 2023 Kimi Ora data is not complete as it does not include Term 1 data.