

We have received your OIA, which asks:

*How many FTE disabilities support staff are at each university institution and if relevant why there are discrepancies in these numbers; and*

*What is the allocation for these staff at each institution, how many minimum are required?*

At the University of Otago, the FTE for disability support staff was 17.92 in 2021 an increase of +1.96 on 2020 figures. The number of staff working in disability support varies due to the number of students with disabilities registered with disability services, the number of supports available to students and the nature of the courses that the students are enrolled in.

The Tertiary Education Commission expects all tertiary organisations to provide support to make sure disabled students succeed in tertiary education, and the Commission provides funding (“equity funding”) to make this possible. Equity funding is based on student numbers or EFTS, so larger tertiary institutions receive more equity funds than smaller ones.