

29 September 2021

Chris McCashin
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Tēnā koe Chris McCashin

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2021 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding the Oranga Tamariki Ministerial Advisory Board:

- *Can you please provide all of the output/reporting completed by the board or link me somewhere where the information is available? Please also provide the total costs of this Ministerial Advisory Board including:*
 - *Daily Rates of board*
 - *Disbursements*
 - *Any costs of external consultants, companies and scope of the engagement if any*

The Oranga Tamariki Ministerial Advisory Board (the Board) was established in February 2021 to provide independent advice and assurance to the Minister for Children on the progress of Oranga Tamariki across three key areas:

- its relationships with families, whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori, including how it is devolving decision making and actions to Māori
- lifting professional social work practice
- the implementation of operational changes and enhancing its organisational culture.

In regard to output and reporting completed by the Board, an interim report and the final administrative report have been provided to the Minister for Children, who is in the process of considering their findings. Both reports are expected to be published in the coming weeks, alongside the accompanying Cabinet paper and Cabinet decisions.

IN-CONFIDENCE

As such, your request for copies of these documents is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information will soon be made publicly available.

In regard to costs and funding for the Board, members appointed to the Board are remunerated through fees, rather than a salary. These fees are set out under the Cabinet Fees Framework which is publicly accessible on the Public Service Commission website:

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/resources/board-appointment-guidelines/?e714=6515-cabinet-fees-framework>

In line with the Framework, Board members are paid a fee of \$1,000/day for the Chair, and \$800/day for members. This was agreed by Cabinet when the Board was established. A copy of the Cabinet paper and decisions can be accessed on the Oranga Tamariki website:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/reports-and-releases/cabinet-papers/oranga-tamariki-ministerial-advisory-board/>

The total spend on Board members fees, as at the end of the most recent financial quarter, 30 June 2021, is \$222,299. Additionally, the total amount of funding set aside for the Board is \$2.58 million. This is a multi-year funding appropriation.

The total spend on external contractors and consultants, as at 30 June 2021, is \$78,045.

In regard to the scope of engagement, to support their advice to the Minister, the Board undertook an extensive information-gathering exercise. More than 70 hui were held with iwi and Māori organisations, service providers, government agencies, Oranga Tamariki staff, and other relevant statutory organisations. The Board also visited several Oranga Tamariki sites and residences and spoke to a range of frontline staff and social workers.

Please note that this work was divided up between the members of the Board, with support from their Secretariat, the external contractors and, where necessary, relevant Oranga Tamariki staff.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request for information regarding the Ministerial Advisory Board, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services