



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

8 March 2022

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Tēnā koe Jamie Priemus

On 10 February 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *As of 31st January 2022, how much of the Government's \$380.6m Apprenticeship Boost fund which commenced on 1 August 2020 has been paid to employers in total?*

The Apprenticeship Boost Initiative programme came into effect on 5 August 2020 and was due to expire on 4 April 2022. The programme has since been extended an additional four months and is now available until 4 August 2022. As a result, the budget was increased, and the total budget available for the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative is now \$427.491 million.

The purpose of this programme is to support employers to engage and retain eligible apprentices who are in training towards their qualification, and in turn, to assist New Zealand's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The policies regarding the initiative were led by the Ministry of Education, however, the administration of the scheme is led by the Ministry.

An employer is eligible for assistance under this programme if they:

- have applied for assistance in accordance with clause 9 of the programme,
- make an employment position, or engage a self-employed contractor, who is an eligible apprentice,
- are not a State Sector employer, and
- are not receiving a specified payment in respect of the eligible apprentice.

For the purpose of this programme, an eligible apprentice is a person who the Ministry is satisfied:

- is enrolled in a New Zealand Apprenticeship with a Transitional Industry Training Organisation,
- is enrolled in a Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)-recognised Managed Apprenticeship with a provider,
- has not had their enrolment withdrawn or put on hold,
- is in paid employment or a paid contracting arrangement with an applicant, and
- has completed no more than 24 months of a programme of study.

The amount of a grant for an applicant eligible under clause 6 of the programme is (exclusive of GST):

- \$1,000 per month during the first 12 months of the eligible apprentice's programme of study, to a maximum of \$12,000 per annum, and
- \$500 per month during the second 12 months of the eligible apprentice's programme of study, to a maximum of \$6,000 per annum.

You can find more information regarding the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative here:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/apprenticeship-boost-initiative-programme/index.html.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/subsidies-training-and-other-help/apprenticeship-boost/index.html

As at 1 February 2022, I can confirm that \$307.69 million of the available \$427.491 million has been paid through the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative programme to fund 40,314 apprentices to date.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry 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 regarding the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative programme, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shaun Coleman
Director
Employment