

2 APR 2015

Adam Baker
fyi-request-2567-07177d43@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam

Thank you for your letter to the Ministry of Education of 10 March 2015 requesting:

- *Any information held regarding pregnancy rates in Canterbury secondary schools;*
- *Any information regarding how many females (broken down by school) in the previous three calendar years (2012, 2013, 2014) have become pregnant and subsequently given birth while still enrolled in secondary school; and*
- *Any information regarding the numbers of students (broken down by school, from the previous three calendar years) who have become pregnant while enrolled in secondary school and subsequently left school.*

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

Giving teen parents the tools to continue and complete their education is important to us. Through funding and supporting educational facilities called Teen Parent Units we can provide a second chance at schooling to students who would have otherwise opted out of education. Students can enrol at a local Teen Parent Unit and earn NCEA credits while maintaining access to childcare and community services.

There are two Teen Parent Units in Canterbury: Kimihia Parents' College, which is part of Linwood College, and Karanga Mai Young Parents' College, part of Kaiapoi High School.

Information about all of New Zealand's Teen Parent Units, including statistics about rolls, student retention, funding and achievement of qualifications, is available at our website Education Counts (<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz>). Education Counts is a repository of useful information on all aspects of education in New Zealand.

I have declined this request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have asked for does not exist. We do not require schools to identify how many of their enrolled students are pregnant.

Many government agencies do collect statistics related to teenage pregnancy and parenthood that may be of interest to you. The Department of Statistics measures birth rates among young women in its *Teenage Fertility in New Zealand* series. The

Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (the new name for the Families Commission) has produced a substantial book on the topic of teen parenting called *Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting*. The Ministry of Health has detailed information about the health of newborns and their mothers. All of these resources are easily found on the respective agencies' websites.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have more questions about Teen Parent Units the Ministry's Student Services Advisor Ashlee Cuneen is happy to help you find the information you're looking for. Her email address is ashlee.cuneen@minedu.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this response. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Rodgers
Deputy Secretary
Evidence, Data and Knowledge