

**From:** [MaES\\_requests \(WHAIKAHA\)](#)  
**To:** [Brian Coffey](#); [Brian Coffey](#); [s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#); [s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)  
**Cc:** [MaES\\_requests \(WHAIKAHA\)](#); [Emma Williams](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Flexible Funding  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 March 2024 12:26:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Kia ora

Further information as requested from Amanda.

Ngā mihi,

**Emma Williams** (she/her)

Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

[eople](#)  
[s9\(2\)\(a\) @whaikaha.govt.nz](#)  
[www.Whaikaha.govt.nz](#)



[GIF image of the logo and email signature banner of the Ministry]

**Me he aka rātā ka tipu tahi, ka puāwai tahi kia tū kaha i ngā hihi ō  
Tamanuiterā.**

Like the rātā vines growing together and flourishing to stand strong in the  
warmth of the sun.

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**From:** Amanda Bleckmann [s9\(2\)\(a\) @whaikaha.govt.nz](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 March 2024 12:25 pm  
**To:** Emma Williams <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @whaikaha.govt.nz](#)>  
**Cc:** Brian Coffey [s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)>; MaES\_requests (WHAIKAHA)  
<[xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>  
**Subject:** Flexible Funding

IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Emma, please see below

Source Host Provider

Below is a snapshot of some of the items that have been purchased under respite.



### Personal Budgets

Category	Sum of Spent	Count of Category
Accomodation	41245.75	52
AfterPay	2990.32	53
Air Fare	29933.39	35
Bank Payment	641554.01	4054
Bank Transfer	92450.22	1205
Bill Payments	219166.59	797
Cleaning Services	52945.88	467
Entertainment	15112.72	274
Fee	5463.67	184
Gas Station	38178.92	566
Gym & Fitness	25943.29	319
Healthcare	39576.89	195
Lotto	882.96	28
Misc	2046890.25	11102
SuperMarket	24387.23	409
Takeout	13625.81	356
Tax	2569.89	387
Taxi &travel	35218.91	1013
Therapy	128566.03	1045
Wages	981254.28	1673
Cash	20527.6	128
Various Respite	69808.02	523
Telecommunications	5465.11	84
Alcohol & Tobacco	3412.23	61
Retail Purchases & Items	194584.55	719
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4731754.52</b>	<b>25729</b>

## IF Respite

Row Labels	Sum of Amount	% Total
Contract Care & Wages	\$ 11,910,280	37%
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,026,394	19%
Travel, Taxi & Parking	\$ 5,954,309	18%
Computers & Tech	\$ 1,461,032	5%
Therapeutic Items & Services	\$ 1,279,350	4%
item	\$ 1,083,576	3%
Accomodation	\$ 972,070	3%
Gym & Fitness	\$ 577,673	2%
Entertainment	\$ 540,315	2%
Meals	\$ 466,033	1%
Lessons	\$ 339,355	1%
Subscriptions, Passes & Memberships	\$ 302,549	1%
Bike	\$ 288,079	1%
Airfares	\$ 244,970	1%
Recognition	\$ 236,411	1%
Admin Costs	\$ 177,061	1%
Spa Pool	\$ 123,225	0%
Cleaning	\$ 84,528	0%
Petrol	\$ 78,105	0%
Bonus	\$ 40,867	0%
assistant animals	\$ 36,401	0%
Groceries	\$ 15,559	0%
Training	\$ 14,232	0%
Modification	\$ 12,641	0%
Internet & Telecommunications	\$ 10,294	0%
Healthcare	\$ 8,030	0%
Health products	\$ 3,565	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 32,286,907</b>	<b>100%</b>

## IF- HCSS

Row Labels	Items	Total Value	% of Total Value
ACC Levies	12	\$ 1,841.90	0.01%
Accomodation	195	\$ 110,279.25	0.35%
Admin Costs	1350	\$ 424,821.89	1.36%
Airfares	52	\$ 43,907.72	0.14%
Assistant Animals	46	\$ 10,159.31	0.03%
Bonus	647	\$ 230,424.45	0.74%
Cleaning	867	\$ 157,460.56	0.50%
Computers & Tech	533	\$ 395,087.54	1.27%
Contract Care & Wages	35882	\$ 26,011,915.58	83.39%
Entertainment	605	\$ 59,406.74	0.19%
Groceries	473	\$ 16,531.44	0.05%
Gym & Fitness	272	\$ 51,009.30	0.16%
Health products	103	\$ 7,792.24	0.02%
Healthcare	14	\$ 17,740.19	0.06%
Internet & Telecommunications	107	\$ 6,639.40	0.02%
Item	420	\$ 1,003,152.00	3.22%
Lessons	23	\$ 6,320.63	0.02%
Meals	1438	\$ 74,891.20	0.24%
Misc Respite	117	\$ 51,953.78	0.17%
Miscellaneous	331	\$ 110,780.91	0.36%
Modification	23	\$ 170,062.95	0.55%
Petrol	278	\$ 33,104.73	0.11%
Recognition	398	\$ 116,306.05	0.37%
Subscriptions, Passes & Memberships	128	\$ 14,040.87	0.05%
Therapeutic Items & Services	742	\$ 248,877.98	0.80%
Training	122	\$ 32,706.26	0.10%
Travel, Taxi & Parking	19070	\$ 1,786,750.26	5.73%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64248</b>	<b>\$ 31,193,965.13</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Ngā manaakitanga

Amanda Bleckmann ([pronoun she/her](#))

Deputy Chief Executive

Commissioning, Design and Delivery

**Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People**

s9(2)(a) [@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@whaikaha.govt.nz) | Whaikaha.govt.nz

*I work flexible hours, if this email arrives in your inbox outside of your working hours, I do not expect you to read, take action or respond until you are next at work and able to respond.*



Me he aka rātā ka tipu tahi, ka puāwai tahi kia tū kaha i ngā hihi ō Tamanuiterā.

Like the rātā vines growing together and flourishing to stand strong in the warmth of the sun.

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**From:** Brian Coffey


**Sent:** Thursday, 28 March 2024 1:11 PM

**To:** s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; s9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz>

**Subject:** FW: flexible purchases

Out of scope



Out of scope

#### IN-CONFIDENCE

You can edit as you wish, but this is more context.

The Purchasing Rules were introduced to provide disabled people and family carers flexibility to purchase support that works for them, in their specific context.

Over time, particularly carer support and flexible respite funding have been used with an increasingly broad interpretations of 'sustaining the carer in their role'.

Some of these purchases have recognised that effective support of the disabled person, including psychological services, speech language services, services that work with young people who have both intellectual disability and mental illness, and the purchases of items that support disabled children to self-regulate, are an effective way to reduce the need for more intensive breaks.

However, this use of flexibility enables access to services that for the general public are subject to limited availability due to fiscal constraints within the public health, social development and education systems. Whaikaha has become concerned that use of flexibility for these services may undermine general efforts within government to work within fiscal limits.

Arguments have been made that hairdressing appointments and other appearance services can be part of supporting often solo carers to have time for themselves, spend time with other adults, and achieve a sense of wellbeing.

We have recorded evidence through providers of the range of purchases that are occurring, with access to pedicures, hairdresser appointments, and massages at the extreme end of the continuum.

Whaikaha considers it is not clear that paying these expenses is necessary to overcome any barrier to undertaking these activities arising from having care responsibilities.

The same can also be said of domestic or overseas travel costs for families and individual disabled people, where the cost of alternative care is not sought.

In the grey area between these kinds of investments have been gym memberships for family carers, sporting and recreation goods that are used for carers undertaking physical lifting work to maintain their fitness and ability to physically provide care safely.

While there is perhaps a stronger argument for these kinds of expenditure, fundamentally Whaikaha believes these cannot be considered a high priority at a time when some family carers must wait for essential equipment such as wheelchairs or equipment necessary to do lifting safely to be provided.

This has contributed to pressure on the disability support budget, creating the need for a pause and tightening of the rules, to managed immediate budget pressures and to ensure that money appropriated for disability support is spent on the highest priority uses at this time.

### **Snapshot**

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**Here is the first view of spending based on an analysis of the last 6 months of spending data for s9(2)(ba)(i) -**

We have analysed 25729 bank transaction records and have categorised the majority of them.

The pivot below shows the \$ total value and also the number of records in each of the categories.

I have described some of the categories below where they need some explanation.

There are still many Misc items that lack enough details/particulars to categorise quickly and will require a lot more time to continue to categorise.



Category	Sum of Spent	Count of Category
Accomodation	41245.75	52
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### **Categories Defined:**

- Bank Payments: are bank transfers to organisations or people we cannot identify or categorise
- Healthcare: are various items like pharmacy costs and charges and health related costs that are not Therapies
- Cash: are transactions that we can clearly identify as Cash Withdrawals
- Retail Purchases & Items: are various retail and hardware store purchases (e.g. Harvey Norman, Mitre 10, etc)
- Bill Payments: are various payments for services (e.g. Electricity, etc)