



Scan for
NZSL name

Scout Barbour - Evans

fyi-request-28659-bc450bb0@requests.fyi.org.nz

25 November 2024

Tēnā koe Scout

On 5 October 2024, you emailed Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- “1. Policy documents which discuss health conditions which should, and should not be covered by DSS or NASC providers.**
- 2. Internal analysis, including economic analysis, analysis of needs, and advice received by the Ministry as to whether or not patients with Long Covid and ME/CFS should be able to access DSS or NASC support and coverage.**
- 3. Correspondence providing advice, that has been sent to NASC providers and Te Whatu Ora about this coverage.”**

On 11 October 2024, the Ministry transferred Part 3 of your request to the Ministry of Social Development – Disability Support Services (DSS). They will respond to your request in due course.

I apologise for the delay in providing you the remaining information.

Information identified as within scope of your request is listed in Appendix One with copies of documents attached. Appendix One also lists the decision for each document and outlines the reason for any withheld material.

We thought it would be helpful to provide some additional context to the information in this package. Early this year, the Ministry was scoping a medium-term work programme to review eligibility for Disability Support Services and was working with an external Advisory Group as part of this process. In April 2024, the Minister for Disability Issues commissioned an independent review of DSS and requested the Ministry to stop its work regarding eligibility for DSS.

On 16 September 2024, Disability Support Services transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). MSD now has responsibility for funding and administering these services and responding to the findings of the independent review.



I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_requests@whaikaha.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 black ink, appearing to read 'EMW', with a horizontal line underneath.

Emma Williams
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix One

No	Document	Decision
<i>Policy Documents</i>		
1	Disability support services operational policy 2017 - 2020	Released in full
2	Petition of Associated Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society Incorporated	Refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available: Petition of Associated Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society Incorporated: Reclassification of ME/CFS to disability (selectcommittees.parliament.nz)
3	Whaikaha response to the Petition of Associated Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society Incorporated	Refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available: Whaikaha - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz)
4	20 December 2023 REP/WHK/23/12/015 Background on the approach to scoping the Review of Eligibility for Disability Support Services	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA (to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied) and section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA (maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of



		opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty).
Internal Analysis		
5	Letter to ODI 28 August 2023	Released in full
6	9 Oct 2023 Response to ANZMES	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
7	31 July 2023 Letter to Minister for Disability Issues	Released in full
8	Reclassification report ANZMES July 2022	Released in full
9	Reclassification of ME/CFS – issues, solutions, frameworks and benefits	Released in full
10	Eligibility Advisory Group Dec 2023 minutes of meeting	Relevant excerpts provided in accordance with section 16 of the OIA.
11	Eligibility Advisory Group Feb 2024 minutes of meeting	
Research sent to Whaikaha		
12	Email dated 14 Feb 2024 from President of Associated NZ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society Inc in scoping review	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
Analysis in relation to ME/CFS or Long COVID		
13	Draft analysis outcome areas and scope options DSS eligibility review March 2024	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the effective conduct of public

14	Draft analysis of the costs of the status quo as part of preparing analysis on eligibility review scope options	affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.
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