



29 JUL 2015

Craig and Lisa MacKinlay
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Dear Craig and Lisa

Thank you for your email of 22 June 2015 requesting information about funding to Special Schools for the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS).

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

The Ministry of Education works to ensure every child with Special Education or behavioural needs gets the right support.

ORS provides additional support for a small number of students with the highest need for special education support, to help them join in and learn alongside other students at school. Support includes funding for a teacher's aide, additional teacher time, support from specialists, and small items a student might need. Once it is verified that a student is eligible for ORS, that funding stays with them throughout their time at school.

All Special Schools, including Sommerville Special School, currently receive the same rate of funding per annum for a student verified as High ORS or Very High ORS. These rates are provided in the table below, for the years 2009-2013. While there has been no change to these rates since 2013, in Budget 2015 an additional \$39.5 million over four years was allocated to ensure we meet increasing demand for ORS support.

Table: Funding rates for High and Very High ORS students (2009 – 2013)		
Date from	ORS rates (\$)	
	High ORS	Very High ORS
01/04/2013	10,561.18	18,209.81
01/07/2012	10,470.57	18,054.30
01/07/2011	10,381.07	17,900.71
01/10/2010	10,275.29	17,719.13
01/07/2010	10,051.92	17,333.93
01/01/2009	9,910.39	17,091.05

ORS students also receive additional teacher support. If a student is verified as high needs their school is allocated an additional 0.1 of a full time teacher to support that student. If a student is verified as very high needs, an additional 0.2 of a full time teacher is allocated to the student's school.

We have begun an update on Special Education, which will include looking at streamlining how we categorise and fund services, as well as how those services could be more easily accessed. We have been engaging with schools, parents and whānau, and education and disability sector partners to hear their views on how we can better support their Special Education needs.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support