



16 NOV 2015

Ms Belinda Blair
fyi-request-3172-4f935c67@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Blair

On 26 September 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *What is the annual total funding amount for the High and complex needs unit nationwide. A breakdown of administration costs and actual funding for HCN plans themselves*
2. *What is the funding amount specifically for the HCN unit in the Te Taitokerau region.*

The High and Complex Needs (HCN) Unit supports families, whānau and caregivers with children and young people who have high and complex needs. The HCN works closely with multiple government and non-government agencies helping to find positive solutions for children and young people who need it most.

Between 70 to 100 children and young people around New Zealand receive support each year from nationally approved HCN interagency Plans, delivered at the local level by interagency teams made up of the local practitioners working in the health and disability, care and protection, and education sectors. Further information on the HCN can be found at the following link: <http://www.hcn.govt.nz/>

There are 15 Interagency Management Groups (IMGs) throughout New Zealand which comprise of the senior managers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Child, Youth and Family. The senior managers meet regularly to discuss and develop interagency plans for local children that have high and complex needs.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the HCN received a budget of \$5.664 million. Of this, \$4.175 million is allocated for plan costs and \$1.489 million is personnel and administration related costs. The Administration and Personnel costs include the salaries for 10 regional HCN Specialists and a Team Leader Professional Practice and 3 National Office (1 manager, 1 business analyst, 1 admin staff), project and processes development/enhancement work, travel costs and general administration like phone costs/ meeting costs/ software maintenance and licensing.

The HCN fund is managed centrally, funding is not allocated on a regional basis but rather, funding is based on the needs of each individual client regardless of where they live. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

I hope you find this information regarding the High Complex Needs Unit helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely



Viv Rickard
Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family