

14 JUL 2016

**Connie Winslow and Lyn Bishop**  
fyi-request-4145-e804e6b7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201602481

Dear Connie Winslow and Lyn Bishop

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 16 June 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), as follows:

- *What is the total cost of dental care for preschool and children up to and including year 8 in NZ?*
- *What are the cost breakdowns of this cost for surgical dental procedures, ie, anaesthetics, tooth extractions, fillings, repairs and restorations of tooth enamel, etc?*
- *What are the breakdowns for staffing, training related the DHBs and other dental health providers of dental health to children?*

Expenditure by all district health boards (DHBs) on oral health services in 2014/15, the latest year for which the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) holds audited expenditure data, was as follows:

Service type	Patient age range	2014/15 expenditure GST excl (\$ million)
Community Oral Health Service	Pre-school to school year 8	\$97.698
Adolescent dental services	School year 9 to the 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday	\$46.457
Secondary/tertiary hospital dental services	All ages	\$46.567
Emergency dental care for low-income adults	18 years and over	\$8.361
Total DHB expenditure on oral health services		\$199.083

The Ministry does not hold a further breakdown of costs as you have requested, so those parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision.

Yours sincerely



**Jill Lane**  
**Director**  
**Service Commissioning**