

23 NOV 2016

Mr de Geest
fyi-request-4843-a5ac43e7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr de Geest

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your request of 4 October 2016 made under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding adoption statistics in New Zealand. Specifically you have requested:

- a) The number of children adopted in New Zealand from 2006-2015 broken down by year
- b) The number of applications to adopt a child in New Zealand from 2006-2015 broken down by year
- c) Summary statistics of the reason for unaccepted applications from 2006-2015

In response to questions a and b, please refer to the tables below.

Table 1: Number of adoption applications filed by calendar year.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications filed	356	380	270	268	201	212	228	180	191	204

Table 2: Number of adoption applications granted in New Zealand by calendar year.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children	293	253	254	208	193	185	168	178	181	152

Note: This table is most useful for comparing to table 1 to get the proportion of applications granted. However, data for the later years, especially 2015, will be incomplete because some applications are still active.

Table 3: Number of adoption applications granted in New Zealand by year of outcome.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children	286	261	205	206	170	173	193	142	151	136

Note: This table indicates the number of adoptions finalised each year, and gives the best indication of overall trends.

It is important to note that the figures in tables 2 and 3 differ as an adoption may not be granted in the same year in which it was filed. Applications not granted include those which are still currently open before the Family Court, or otherwise have been withdrawn or discontinued, or dismissed or struck out by the Court.

The information you have requested in question c is court record information. The courts are excluded from the operation of the Official Information Act 1982 under section 2(6)(a) and (b). Therefore, I am declining this part of your request as allowed by s 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

Adoptions in New Zealand are managed under the Adoptions Act 1955 and there is additional information about adoptions available on the Child Youth and Family website:
cyf.govt.nz/adoption/index.html

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, at media@justice.govt.nz or call (04) 918 8980.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely



JP
Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 59610