

Dorothy Taare-Smith  
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Ref: H201804838

Dear Dorothy Taare-Smith

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 5 July 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) asking:

*Is it known approximately, how many children whose whānau identify as Māori have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder currently living in New Zealand?*

*If known, what percentage are from Te Tairāwhiti region?*

*If an individual wanted to pursue data collection in this area does MOH have funding provisions to support this type of initiative?*

The information relating to this request is itemised in the table below.

Request	Response
<p>1. <i>Is it known approximately, how many children whose whānau identify as Māori have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder currently living in New Zealand?</i></p>	<p>As at July 2018, there are 1199 children and young people aged 18 or under who are recorded as having autism - they may also have other disabilities such as intellectual disability.</p> <p>We are unable to ascertain how many of these children and their whānau identify as Māori.</p> <p>The New Zealand Health Survey is a publically available resource which may assist with viewing a breakdown of the available data. This information is available at <a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/regional-results-2014-2017-new-zealand-health-survey">https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/regional-results-2014-2017-new-zealand-health-survey</a></p> <p>See the 'Regional Data Explorer 2014–2017: New Zealand Health Survey' tool on this page which allows you to break down Health Survey information down by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region</li> <li>• Topic and Indicator (in this case this would be 'Mental health and development disorders' and 'Autism spectrum disorder' respectively).</li> <li>• Ethnicity</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Time period</li> </ul> <p>Disability Support Services in the Ministry of Health also publish demographic reports on the population who access these services. The reports for 2014 and 2016 can be found at the following website:</p> <p><a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/demographic-report-clients-allocated-ministry-healths-disability-support-services-september-2016">https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/demographic-report-clients-allocated-ministry-healths-disability-support-services-september-2016</a></p>

Request	Response
2. If known, what percentage are from Te Tairāwhiti region?	<p>This information is publically available via the same link as above.</p> <p>The Health Survey tool allows for data to be broken down per region.</p>
3. If an individual wanted to persue data collection in this area does MOH have funding provisions to support this type of initiative?	<p>The Ministry of Health does not offer funding provisions through scholarships or research grants.</p> <p>The Health Research Council of NZ <a href="http://www.hrc.govt.nz/">http://www.hrc.govt.nz/</a> is the main mechanism by which health research is funded in NZ, they also have a specific Māori health research investment stream with a range of research investment opportunities: <a href="http://www.hrc.govt.nz/funding-opportunities/maori-development">http://www.hrc.govt.nz/funding-opportunities/maori-development</a></p>

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Toni Atkinson  
**Group Manager**  
**Disability Support Services**