OT-OIA-2026-0255

14 September 2026

s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your letter, received on 17 August 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have addressed each of your questions below.

1. *copies of information relating to those living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or other similar neuro disabilities and their impact on the cost of providing services and support by Oranga Tamariki.*

2. *copies of information relating to the costs of those living with FASD (or other similar neuro disabilities) as they impact other related services provided by your ministry.*

Oranga Tamariki does not hold structured information relating to FASD or other similar impairments affecting tāngata whaikaha in care. Nor does it hold information on the costs, or cost impacts, associated with providing specific supports for individual impairment types. As such, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, that the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

3. *copies of information relating the impact of those living with FASD (or other similar neuro disabilities) on proposed and actual policy changes.*

   For all of the above requests the date range requested is from 1 July 2020 until today.

People living with FASD have shaped the Governments' 2025-2028 FASD Action Plan. Oranga Tamariki is the lead or co-lead agency for some of the actions in this plan, which include:

- Conduct prevalence study on FASD within a youth justice residence to improve FASD data, identify staff training needs and the needs of individuals with FASD and their whānau in a New Zealand youth justice residential setting.

- Explore improvements to early identification of prenatal alcohol exposure, assessment and support pathways across a range of services, including Gateway, Kahu Taurima | Maternity and Early Years initiatives, Well Child Tamariki Ora enhanced support pilots and B4 School Check services (co-lead with Ministry of Health and Health NZ).
- Develop resources and guidance for Oranga Tamariki caregivers to enable them to understand how FASD may present and how they can support children with FASD or possible FASD in their care.
- Develop capability within the children in-care system to address FASD through comprehensive training and guidance to identify possible FASD, leading to improved support and referrals for diagnosis.
- Enhance visibility of children and young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki within the health system to support health practitioners to be more responsive to the needs of children in care, which will include identifying FASD needs in care plans, (co-lead with Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand)

Additionally, the full Action Plan can be found on the Ministry of Health website here.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Leilani Unasa
Acting General Manager Voices
Enabling Communities