




8 October 2021



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email sent to the Ministry of Health on 7 August 2021, partially transferred to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for response on 10 September 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please provide all relevant information around the 1.9 billion dollars earmarked for Mental Health NZ. Including, money spent on paid consultants.*

Please see attached the requested information as Appendix One. I note that while the Crown Response was tagged in the Budget 2019 as contributing to mental wellbeing, it is primarily an indirect contribution to the work of the Royal Commission to improve the wellbeing of survivors of abuse in care.

In terms of consultants, all expenditure fell in the Vote Oranga Tamariki line:

- 2019/20 - \$72,000 for specialist HR services to develop cross-government support arrangements for current and former staff and caregivers affected by the Royal Commission; \$3,000 for an expert meeting facilitator for a cross-agency workshop.
- 2020/21 - \$3,500 for an expert meeting facilitator for a cross-agency workshop; \$259,000 contract for independent research into historic Māori experiences in State care.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom

General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services

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Appendix One: Budget 2019 mental wellbeing initiatives – Information on the Crown Response initiative

Information to 10 September 2021 (Figures in millions)

Initiative:

An Effective, Timely Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care.

Description:

This initiative aims to ensure the Crown can engage with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care in a full, timely and joined-up manner, to help the Royal Commission achieve its vision of "Transforming the way we, as a nation, care for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our communities."

Vote	Operating / Capital	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		Total	
		Allocated	Spent	Allocated	Spent	Allocated	Spent	Allocated	Spent	Allocated	Spent	Allocated	Spent
Courts	Operating	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Education	Operating	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
Health	Operating	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Internal Affairs	Operating	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.4
Oranga Tamariki	Operating	0.5	0.3	6.7	2.7	0.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	7.0
State Services	Operating	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	Operating	0.5	0.3	9.2	5.1	0.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.7	9.4

Description of agencies involved and services funded
<p>This cross-agency initiative funded staff and resources in Archives New Zealand, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Oranga Tamariki, and the Public Service Commission (formerly the State Services Commission) to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross-agency coordination; • legal support for procedural questions and representation with Royal Commission investigations and hearings; • records retrieval, digitisation and processing, and research services to provide information to the Royal Commission and people formerly in State care; • support for current and former staff affected by the Royal Commission; and • support for training and advice to non-governmental organisations on issues such as records management and processing. <p>Please note, the Crown is responding to the timing and processes of the Royal Commission. Due to delays with the Royal Commission's investigations in 2019/20 (particularly driven by the COVID-19 pandemic) allocated funding from 2019/20 was carried forward into 2020/21 to spend. External spending was on records digitisation firms and legal representatives.</p>