



13 DEC 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 20 November 2018 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information about teacher aides:

1. *I am currently a [REDACTED] and would like a statistical idea of the number of teacher aides currently employed in New Zealand Schools?*
2. *As a former t/a I am interested in investigating how to further develop professional pathways for t/a's in order to raise student achievement. If there are any other resources you could recommend that would be most appreciated.*
3. *How much money does the government invest in employing t/a's?*
4. *What research has NZ done on the impact on t/a's on student achievement?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In relation to point one, the table below provides a snapshot of the full time equivalent (FTE) number and total role count of teacher aides as designated by schools in their payroll data for the first (April) pay period of each year from 2005 - 2018.

Year	Number (FTE) of teacher aides as designated in the first pay period each year	Total role count of teacher aides as designated in the first pay period each year
2005	6459.08	13628
2006	6763.27	13929
2007	6830.12	13964
2008	6789.76	14166
2009	7128.85	14767
2010	6969.17	14749
2011	7012.92	14732
2012	6935.71	14702
2013	7004.89	14470
2014	7177.25	14895
2015	7493.67	15352
2016	7710.64	15714
2017	8125.80	16214
2018	8390.72	17137

Note that 'point in time' teacher aide figures (as provided above) will be lower than the cumulative number of teacher aides employed by schools throughout the year. In 2016, for example, payroll data indicates that 21,673 people, or 6,811 FTE staff, were employed as teacher aides throughout the year. However, point in time figures are the only data set available for release that dates back to 2005.

In relation to point two, the Ministry provides resources for teacher aides on Te Kete Ipurangi which you can find here:

<http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/>

This website includes specific modules of study for teacher aides, as well as resources and support for those in the Learning Support field.

The Tertiary Education Commission also has information about who in the tertiary sector is offering qualifications for teacher aides, as there are a number of institutions which offer these courses of study. Additionally, every teacher aide should have a professional learning plan with their employer that identifies areas for development.

In relation to point three, teacher aide funding provided by the Ministry for the 2017/18 financial year totalled \$118,098,400. Teacher aide funding includes students receiving one of the following Ministry-funded Learning Support services:

- High Health
- Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS)
- ORS Extension Service
- Language Learning Initiative
- Communication Service
- Behaviour Service
- In-Class Support.

Schools employ teacher aides and decide their hourly rate, with the Ministry contributing towards this cost. Schools also employ teacher aides using their Special Education Grant (SEG), which is part of the operational funding they receive from the Ministry. In 2017/18 schools received approximately \$40.5 million in SEG funding (excluding GST).

We are refusing point four of your request, for what research NZ has done on the impact of teacher aides on student achievement, under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry.

We asked the Education Review Office (ERO) if they held this information but they advised they do not. However, ERO mention the use of teacher aides in some of their national evaluation reports. These can be found on their website under "Publications": [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz).

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written over the typed name and title.

Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**