

From: 7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2026 11:14
To: 7(2)(a)
Subject: LGOIMA Request - Cost of Head Start

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Hi

Under the LGOIMA, I would like to request the following information about the costs that your council incurred due to the Government's Head Start local government initiative:

1. What was the total cost to the council for of all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative? For clarification purposes, this request is for the total cost or the best estimate of the total cost to the council of the Head Start initiative. Points 2-5 below are for components of this total.
2. What consultants and contractors were engaged to advise or provided information or analysis for the council's response to Head Start and what was the cost of each provider's services? What were the titles of any reports provided by these consultants or contractors?
3. What was the total cost to the council for informing or consulting with local communities and how much was spent on surveys, advertising, informational publications (flyers, pamphlets, etc.), public meetings, websites and other such activities.
4. What was the total cost of any extraordinary or special council meetings or workshops held regarding Head Start or the council's response to it?
5. What other costs were incurred by the council under this initiative and what was the value of those costs?

I am interested in costs from 5 May 2026 until the date that your response was provided to the Government.

Thank you.

7(2)(a) | Senior Advisor
Labour Leader's Office
Mobile 7(2)(a)

Authorised by Chris Hipkins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

From: Customer Services
Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2026 08:33
To: 7(2)(a)
Subject: LGOIMA SR.34672 - Head Start Initiative Costs – Decision

Kia ora 7(2)(a)

Your official information request received by us 18 August 2026 for costs incurred during the Head Start initiative over the period 05 May 2026 – present has been granted. The information you have requested is below.

1. What was the total cost to the council for of all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative? For clarification purposes, this request is for the total cost or the best estimate of the total cost to the council of the Head Start initiative. Points 2-5 below are for components of this total.
 - \$34,994.28 (GST exclusive)
1. What consultants and contractors were engaged to advise or provided information or analysis for the council's response to Head Start and what was the cost of each provider's services? What were the titles of any reports provided by these consultants or contractors?
 - Morrison Low was engaged and delivered the report [HFO July 2026 - Otago Mayoral Forum](#).
 - The cost of this was \$85,500 (GST exclusive), shared between the six local authorities in Otago.
1. What was the total cost to the council for informing or consulting with local communities and how much was spent on surveys, advertising, informational publications (flyers, pamphlets, etc.), public meetings, websites and other such activities.
 - \$12,358.00 spent informing local communities, consisting of:
 - \$4,190.00 on Newspaper advertising
 - \$5,693.00 on Digital advertising
 - \$2,475.00 on Mayoral Forum website updates
1. What was the total cost of any extraordinary or special council meetings or workshops held regarding Head Start or the council's response to it?
 - N/A
1. What other costs were incurred by the council under this initiative and what was the value of those costs?
 - N/A

Proactive Release

Council has published this LGOIMA.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us by return email.

Kā mihi,

7(2)(a)



Legal

legal@orc.govt.nz



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LGOIMA SR.34672 RELEASE