

16/06/2025



**OIA: 1346648 – Number of children receiving Ongoing Resourcing Scheme funding by criteria level**

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2025 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. How many children are receiving ORS funding in Aotearoa by criteria (1-9)?  
I understand children may be eligible under more than one criterion therefore the number for each criterion may total more than the total number of children receiving ORS funding.*
- 2. What is the total number of children receiving ORS funding?*
- 3. How many children are receiving ORS funding under 1 criterion, 2 criteria, and more than 2 criteria?*
- 4. If possible do you have the above data for the end of 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021.*

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

The Ministry considers applications for all students with highly-complex developmental learning or sensory needs. The Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) package of support is just one of the learning supports available to disabled children. Not all children with complex needs receive ORS funding, and some receive other support instead. Every child's needs and circumstances are unique, and this is reflected in the support they receive.

The ORS is for ākonga who have the highest ongoing levels of need for specialist support at school. Approximately 1% of the school population require the support of ORS funding. ORS support helps ākonga to join in and learn alongside other ākonga at school. Any ākonga who meets the ORS criteria is included in the scheme. Once an ākonga is in ORS, they receive this additional package of support until they leave school.

In response to **parts one and two** of your request, please see **Tables One and Two** below.

**Table One: Number of ORS-verified individuals by criteria 1-9 by financial year**

Criterion	Level	Need	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 30 Apr 25
1	Very High	Learning	785	856	936	1,009
2.1	Very High	Hearing - NZSL	56	63	76	84
2.2	Very High	Hearing - Cochlear Implant	49	52	56	60
2.3	Very High	Vision	86	96	114	120
3	Very High	Physical	288	320	347	368
4	Very High	Language Use and Appropriate Social Communication	1,037	1,161	1,300	1,459
5	High	Learning	3,591	3,981	4,435	4,902
6.1	High	Hearing	178	197	222	234
6.2	High	Vision	202	225	245	256
7	High	Physical	243	260	284	297
8	High	Language Use and Appropriate Social Communication	2,349	2,737	3,196	3,232
9	High	Combined Moderate Needs	101	103	109	109
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8,965</b>	<b>10,051</b>	<b>11,320</b>	<b>12,130</b>

The table captures the number of ORS-verified individuals, including children not yet enrolled at school and students in transition between schools.

**Table Two: Total number of ORS verified individuals by financial year**

Financial Year	Total ORS Students including non-enrolled
2024-2025*	12,130
2023-2024	11,849
2022-2023	11,306
2021-2022	10,940

Please note:

- Numbers in fund each year are as at 1 July, except 2024-25, which is as at 30 April 2025.
- Actual numbers are different to number of applications received and number of decisions made.

Regarding **part three** of your request, as at 30 April 2025, there are the following numbers of ORS-verified individuals under the following criteria:

- 11,543 students receiving ORS funding under one criterion
- 485 students receiving ORS funding under two criteria
- 6 students receiving ORS funding under three criteria.

I am refusing your request for this information for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The Ministry does not collate this information into a dataset, as it does not impact the amount of funding to which an individual is entitled.

Please note, the data extracted above excludes ORS-verified individuals who were 21 years of age or more as at 1 December 2024. This impacts on the financial year data as follows:

- 2021 to 2022 by 4%
- 2022 to 2023 by 11% and
- 2024 to 30 April 2025 by 4%.

Regarding **part four** of your request, we have provided the information requested for **parts one and two** of your request by financial year rather than by calendar year date as requested, as this is the time period for which the data is captured within the Ministry's system.

As outlined in our letter of 23 May 2025, you can find data on the number of students involved with ORS as at 1 July each year here: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/ongoing-resourcing-scheme>.

We have also published responses to several past requests regarding ORS funding that may be of interest to you. Please type in ORS at the following link to see these past requests: [https://www.education.govt.nz/search?site\\_search\\_live%5B%5B%5D%5Bresult.lvl%5D%5B0%5D=Documents&site\\_search\\_live%5B%5B%5D%5Bresult.lvl%5D%5B1%5D=Official%20Information%20Act%20release](https://www.education.govt.nz/search?site_search_live%5B%5B%5D%5Bresult.lvl%5D%5B0%5D=Documents&site_search_live%5B%5B%5D%5Bresult.lvl%5D%5B1%5D=Official%20Information%20Act%20release).

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda Pura Watson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lynda Pura Watson  
**General Manager, Learning Support**  
**Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui | Operations and Integration)**