



Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2017 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. The number of teachers in secondary schools receiving the Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance who teach approved Māori immersion programmes at Level 1.*
- 2. The number of teachers in secondary schools receiving the Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance who teach approved Māori immersion programmes at Level 1 and who have more than 3 years continuous service teaching in Level 1 Māori immersion programmes.*
- 3. The number of teachers in secondary schools receiving the Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance who teach approved Māori immersion programmes at Level 1 and who have more than 6 years continuous service teaching in Level 1 Māori immersion programmes.*

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

Māori language is the foundation of Māori culture and identity. Learning in and through the Māori language is an important way for Māori students to participate in te ao Māori and it supports students to connect with their identity as Māori.

The Ministry of Education is committed to lifting the success of Māori students. One key strategy in this is *Ka Hikitia – Accelerating Success 2013-2017*, which focuses on quality teaching that places a student's identity, language and culture, and their aspirations at the centre of their learning. Parents, family and whānau, are essential partners in supporting students to achieve educational success.

The Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance (MITA) is for teachers, or primary or area school principals, employed under the Collective Agreement or Individual Employment Agreement, who use Te Reo Māori as the language of communication and instruction. In secondary schools, all teachers who use Te Reo Māori, for at least six hours per week, in approved Māori immersion programmes at Levels 1, 2 or 3 shall receive the Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance.

The Ministry has information on the number of teachers that receive the Māori Immersion Teacher Allowance, but does not have information on the immersion programme levels for individual teachers. We are unable to provide information solely for Level 1 but have provided you with the total number of secondary teachers receiving the MITA in the first pay of April 2017.

Further information on the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement and Māori Immersion Teachers' Allowance can be found on the Ministry's website at: <https://education.govt.nz/school/working-in-a-school/teachers/secondary-teachers/>.

Number of Teachers receiving MITA allowance in the first pay in April 2017, Secondary Agreement

Contract Type	Number of teachers receiving MITA	Number of teachers receiving MITA with continuous service of more than 3 years	Number of teachers receiving MITA with continuous service of more than 6 years
Secondary	112	Not Held	Not Held

From the beginning of 2017, the Primary and Area School Teacher collective agreements included additional allowances for those teachers in approved Māori immersion programmes at Level 1, who have more than three continuous years' service teaching in Level 1 Māori immersion classes, and a separate allowance for those who have more than six continuous years' service teaching in level 1 Māori immersion classes. These additional allowances are not available in the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement and we are not able to identify those teachers who might be eligible to receive them. For this reason, I am refusing parts two and three of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

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

Yours sincerely



Dr Craig Jones
Deputy Secretary
Evidence, Data and Knowledge