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12 September 2023

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)  
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### Response to your Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 11 August 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*A list of all events the agency has held or had some responsibility for hosting that cost in excess of \$10,000 over the past year? Can the total cost for each of these events please be provided, along with a breakdown of what contributed to the costs? It would be helpful to also know the business purpose or justification for each event as well.*

Aroturuki Tamariki, the Independent Children's Monitor, was established as a departmental agency on 1 May 2023. Prior to this, we operated as a business unit within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Information related to relevant events held by Aroturuki Tamariki prior to 1 May will be provided by the MSD in their response to you. We ensure that decisions regarding our events align with Te Kawa Mataaho and the Office of the Auditor General guidance on sensitive expenditure.

Since 1 May 2023, Aroturuki Tamariki has hosted one event that cost more than \$10,000, our annual noho marae that was held in June at Waikawa Marae in Picton. The purpose of the noho was to reflect on our previous year's performance, and to plan for the year ahead. In addition to the annual planning exercise, the noho provided an opportunity for learning, and forming connections with tangata whenua. Waikawa marae was chosen as it is in the rohe of monitoring work that we are doing this year.

53 staff participated in the noho marae at a cost of \$415 per person for the two-day event.

Please find the cost breakdown for this event in the table below:

<b>Cost</b>	
Travel (Air travel, Vehicle hire, Ferry, Taxi & Mileage)	13,927.71
Accommodation	1815.27
Food	2418.00
Venue	2730.00
Miscellaneous	1150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,040.98</b>

Please note, one of the costs related to this event was incurred while Aroturuki Tamariki was still a business unit within MSD and will not be included in MSD's response to you. For completeness, we have included it in our breakdown above.

Costs of the event were minimised through multiple staff sharing vehicles, self-catering the event, and utilising internal facilitators. A number of our staff were also able to travel by vehicle on to Nelson at the conclusion of the noho to complete monitoring visits as part of our operational work programme.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman on my response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, Aroturuki Tamariki publishes responses to requests for official information here <https://aroturuki.govt.nz/who-we-are/corporate-documents/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact us on [info@aroturuki.govt.nz](mailto:info@aroturuki.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi nui



Arran Jones  
Chief Executive