



Ref: OI-21-00319

Level 9, 44 The Terrace

PO Box 27048

Wellington, New Zealand 6141

P +64 4 462 5200

www.tec.govt.nz

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9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request dated 24 May 2021, which we received on 26 May 2021 from the Ministry of Education by way of transfer, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request the following information under the Official Information Act:

[...]

2. The amount of funding given to New Zealand universities annually to assist people with disabilities.

3. The funding that is annually given by the Ministry of Education fund any bridge programmes (Life skills programmes) at tertiary institutions.

I understand that you may not have these statistics readily available. Any earlier information or other statistical information on children with special learning requirements or disabilities in state schools or tertiary institutions would be greatly appreciated.

In response to your question 2, the Tertiary Education Commission provides funding to Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) in a number of ways to assist people with disabilities.

Equity funding supports TEIs to improve access, participation, and achievement for a range of learners at higher levels of the tertiary education system, including students with disabilities. More information on equity funding for disabled learners can be found here:

<https://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/equity-funding/>.

The 2020 equity funding provided to different types of TEOs for students with disabilities is in the table below.

Equity funding for disability	
	2020
University	\$ 3,301,508
Wānanga	\$ 626,279
Institutes of Technology or Polytechnic	\$ 1,499,223



The Special Supplementary Grant for Special Education (SSG) is available to institutes of technology and polytechnics that already teach students with special needs. The grant is designed to make access to tertiary education easier for people with special needs and provides additional support to work with students who need more assistance. More information can be found here:

<https://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/ssg/>

The 2020 funding for the SSG is in the table below.

	2020
Student Achievement Component Levels 1 and 2 Special Ed SSG	\$ 662,501

TEC also provides funding for supported learning qualifications, the details of which can be found on the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) website at the following locations:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf/search/viewQualification.do?selectedItemKey=2853>

and

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf/search/displayQualificationOverViewWidgetJS.do?&selectedItemKey=4373>

The funding provided for these qualifications, the number of learners and the equivalent full-time students is in the table below.

	2020		
	Learners	EFTS	Funding
Supported learning qualifications	331	160	\$ 2,060,989

In response to your question 3, to the best of our knowledge the Ministry of Education does not provide any funding to tertiary education organisations (TEOs) for bridging programmes which are aimed at life skills.

The TEC does not provide any direct funding to TEOs for bridging programmes which are specifically aimed at life skills. TEOs do provide varied bridging programmes to support learners into tertiary education. However, these are usually academically focused (rather than life skills focused) and aim to increase learners ability to navigate the academic aspects of tertiary education. Some TEOs may offer bridging programmes which support life skill aspects alongside the academic aspects.

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.

The TEC may publish its response to this request on our website with your personal details removed. Consistent with the Act, we are publishing responses in the interests of transparency and accountability, and to improve access to official information.

Nāku noa, nā



Tim Fowler
Chief Executive
Tertiary Education Commission