

25 March 2025

s9(2)(a)

Tālofa lava s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA037-2024/25)

On 10 March 2025, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding Private Health Insurance. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

1. *Does your organisation offer any health insurance benefits to your staff, where the agency contributes financially?*

Yes

2. *Can you summarise what you offer?*

The Ministry offers the Wellbeing One Programme Health Insurance with Southern Cross.

3. *Can you provide a percentage of staff which have taken up the offer broken out by year from 2014 to present.*

As of 14 March 2025, 62.3% of staff benefit from the Southern Cross Health Insurance. I am unable to provide percentages of staff broken down by year from 2014 to 2024 due to substantial amount of manual collation required. I am refusing your request under section 18(f), of the Official Information Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

4. *If there are factors which may have impacted rates - e.g. a new offer, please provide context.*

Various factors have the potential to impact rates, for example:

- Inflation
- Medical History
- Age
- Employee 'driven' upgrades.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Health insurance rates are determined following a consultation between the employee and Southern Cross Health and may include factors such as health history. Any discussion between Southern Cross and the employee remains in confidence between Southern Cross and the employee.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Deputy Secretary
Corporate and Support Services