



Te Pūkenga

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3 September 2025

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2025, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

For each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025:

How many applicants applied for winter energy grants (or any equivalent grants which were aimed at reducing energy hardship for students over winter) and how many grants were available.

How were any such winter energy grant payments funded – ie what were the sources of funding, and how much funding came from each source?

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Previous request, scope and search

We reference your previous OIA request about hardship grants and aid for ākonga (reference TP250029). Within our response, dated 30 April 2025, we provided a list of examples of the type of support, both financial and non-financial, available for our ākonga across our entire business division network.

In order to respond to this current request, with your focused interest being “*winter energy grants*”, we sought input from our 16 provider-based business divisions, further to the information each provided in response to your previous request noted above. This time our search was specific to any grants dedicated to “*energy hardship ... over winter*”.

The decision

Our provider-based business divisions did not and do not have grants dedicated specifically to energy over winter that are separate to our general hardship grants available for ākonga. We therefore must refuse your request – specific to winter energy grants – under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist. It is important to note that ākonga hardship grants (including the Manaaki fund) may have been used for energy costs, utilities or other costs for ākonga who are experiencing energy hardship, which could be at any time of the year.

We reiterate our statement from our previous letter as it remains highly relevant: Te Pūkenga business divisions encourage ākonga to seek any support and assistance required to help learning journeys and enhance opportunities for success. The approach of all our business divisions is to remove as many roadblocks as possible that ākonga might face throughout their learning journey, so that they can successfully complete their chosen programmes of study.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive