

**From:** [Lauren Riddle](#)  
**To:** ["josh@taxpayers.org.nz"](mailto:josh@taxpayers.org.nz)  
**Subject:** Response to Official Information request - Head Start programme expenditure  
**Date:** Tuesday, 29 September 2026 01:22:00 p.m.

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Kia ora Josh

I am writing in response to your information request, received 28 September 2026 seeking:

1. [The total amount spent on contractors and consultants in relation to the Head Start programme from 5 May 2026 to the date of your response.](#)

I advise that the work was commissioned by the Otago Mayoral Forum with Morrison Low.

The Mayoral Forum, consisting of Otago Regional Council, Waitaki District Council, Central Otago District Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Clutha District Council, Gore District Council and Dunedin City Council.

The total cost to the Dunedin City Council was \$31,515.25 (GST excl.). Morrison Low costs were \$28,700. The costs were based on population with the DCC's portion being 53.1%

|            | %<br>Population<br>split | Morrison Low<br>(original<br>amount) | Morrison<br>Low<br>(additional<br>costs) | Mayoral Forum<br>facilitation x2<br>days |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|            |                          | Rounded                              | Rounded                                  | Rounded                                  |
| <b>DCC</b> | <b>53.1</b>              | <b>21200</b>                         | <b>7500</b>                              | <b>2,815.25</b>                          |
|            |                          | <b>*GST<br/>excluded</b>             | <b>*GST<br/>excluded</b>                 | <b>*GST excluded</b>                     |

2. [A breakdown by supplier showing the amount paid, the work undertaken, and the date or period of the work.](#)

For information on a breakdown by supplier, we advise for you to make contact with Marianna Brook at [secretariat@otagomayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@otagomayors.org.nz) as the arrangements for commissioning Morrison Low were made through Marianna and we believe that the secretariat should hold the relevant information.

Therefore, this part of your request is declined pursuant to s17 (e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 - *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found*

You have the right to seeking an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

kā mihi  
*Lauren*

[Lauren Riddle](#)  
**Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer**

**Governance Group**

**P** 03 477 4000 | **DD** 03 474 3428 | **M** 021 2296292 | **E** [lauren.riddle@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:lauren.riddle@dcc.govt.nz)

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

**From:** [Customer Services](#)  
**To:** [Official Information](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Head Start programme expenditure  
**Date:** Monday, 28 September 2026 11:41:15 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [0.png](#)

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Kia ora

This was received via email/website for your attention.

Ngā mihi

Tracy

**Customer Services Officer**

**Customer Services**

**P** 03 477 4000 | **E** [dcc@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:dcc@dcc.govt.nz)

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**From:** josh@taxpayers.org.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 10:54 AM  
**To:** dcc@dcc.govt.nz  
**Subject:** Head Start programme expenditure

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Dear Dunedin City Council,

I request the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

1. The total amount spent on contractors and consultants in relation to the Head Start programme from 5 May 2026 to the date of your response.
2. A breakdown by supplier showing the amount paid, the work undertaken, and the date or period of the work.

Please state whether the amounts include GST.

Kind regards,

**Josh Van Veen**

Senior Policy Analyst (Local Government) | New Zealand Taxpayers' Union | Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance

**Mob +64 21 744 938 | Email [josh@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:josh@taxpayers.org.nz)**

**New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Ltd.** | Main [+64 4 282 0300](tel:+6442820300) | Level 4, 117 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 10518, The Terrace, Wellington 6140 | [www.taxpayers.org.nz](http://www.taxpayers.org.nz)

**Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance** | Main [+64 9 281 5172](tel:+6492815172) | CCHQ, Unit 6, Shed 24, 143 Quay Street, Auckland 1010 | PO Box 133099, Eastridge, Auckland 1146 | [www.ratepayers.nz](http://www.ratepayers.nz)

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