



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

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9 June 2026

Tēnā koe Rhys

OIA: GEMS-47705 – Healthy School Lunches programme

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

Relating to the staffing, travel, and operational costs of the Ministry of Education's school lunches programme (including any functions now operating under Strategic Programmes).

- 1. The total number of staff (FTE) currently employed within the school lunches programme, broken down by role title. (Including the number of communications staff).*
- 2. An organisational chart for the programme, including reporting lines.*
- 3. The number of roles advertised and filled within the lunches programme since 1 January 2025, including role title and salary band.*
- 4. The total amount spent on staff travel for the lunches programme over the past 12 months.*
- 5. The total amount spent on car mileage reimbursements for staff using personal vehicles over the past 12 months.*
- 6. Further details of any travel undertaken by staff to the Chatham Islands in relation to the lunches programme, including number of trips, total cost, the role/title of the staff member(s) who travelled.*
- 7. The total cost of travel (including flights and accommodation) for the Director of the lunches programme between Rotorua and Wellington over the past 12 months.*
- 8. Any analysis, briefings, or advice relating to the appropriate staffing level for a programme that primarily delivers services through external providers or contractors and relating to the restructure outcomes and justification.*
- 9. Any justification or approval documents relating to the use of dedicated communications staff within the programme rather than centralised Ministry communications resources.*
- 10. Any advice provided to Minister David Seymour on the increased staff level following the restructure.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Regarding **part one** of your request, the total number of FTE Ministry staff employed in Strategic Programmes as at 1 April 2026 is 37 in the following roles:

- Change and Delivery Manager
- Commercial Manager
- Commercial Specialist
- Development Chef
- Financial Programme Manager
- General Manager, Strategic Programmes
- Lead Advisor x2
- Principal Advisor Service Delivery
- Principal Advisor, Change and Delivery
- Programme Coordinator x4
- Programme Manager, ECE and Ikura
- Senior Advisor x15
- Senior Advisor, Food Safety
- Senior Advisor, Māori Engagement
- Senior Advisor, Te Aō Māori Nutrition
- Service Delivery Manager x3
- Strategy and Partnerships Manager

Regarding **part two** of your request, please find an organisation chart as **Appendix A**.

Regarding **part three** of your request, please refer to **Table 1** below:

Table 1 – Roles advertised and filled for Healthy School Lunches Programme between 1 January 2025 and 19 May 2026, including role title and salary band.

Title	Salary Band	# Roles
Development Chef	PSA A9 Band	1
Strategy & Partnerships Manager	IEA M5 Band	1
Principal Advisor Service Delivery	PSA A9 Band	2
Senior Advisor	PSA A7 Band	6
Service Delivery Manager	IEA M4 Band	2

Regarding **part four** of your request, the total amount spent on staff travel for the Healthy Lunches Programme from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$129,754.90.

Regarding **part five** of your request, the total amount spent on car mileage reimbursements for staff using personal vehicles for the Healthy Lunches Programme from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$9,015.25.

Regarding **part six** of your request, one senior advisor made three trips to the Chatham Islands to implement the internal model at three schools. The total cost was \$10,265.26, including flights, accommodation, meals, transport and parking.

Regarding **part seven** of your request, the total amount spent on travel, including flights and accommodation, for the General Manager Strategic Programmes between Rotorua and Wellington from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$17,676.95.

Regarding **part eight** of your request, no such documents have been produced relating to staffing levels for the Health School Lunches programme. As such, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. It may be of interest to you that current staffing levels in 2025 and 2026 are lower than previous years.

Regarding **part nine** of your request, Strategic Programmes currently uses two communications staff to support its delivery of three national programmes: Healthy School Lunches, ECE Food programme and Ikura | Free period products.

Dedicated communication resourcing is required due to the scale and complexity of the three programmes, and the need for continuity with specialist knowledge about each of the programmes. This high performing team prepares communications, engages with stakeholders and responds to queries received from multiple channels. For example, across 2025, the communications team responded to over 1500 requests for information regarding the Healthy School Lunches programme.

Regarding **part ten** of your request, there has not been an increase in staffing of the Strategic Programmes since the restructure. The total number of staff has reduced. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) the Act, as above.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

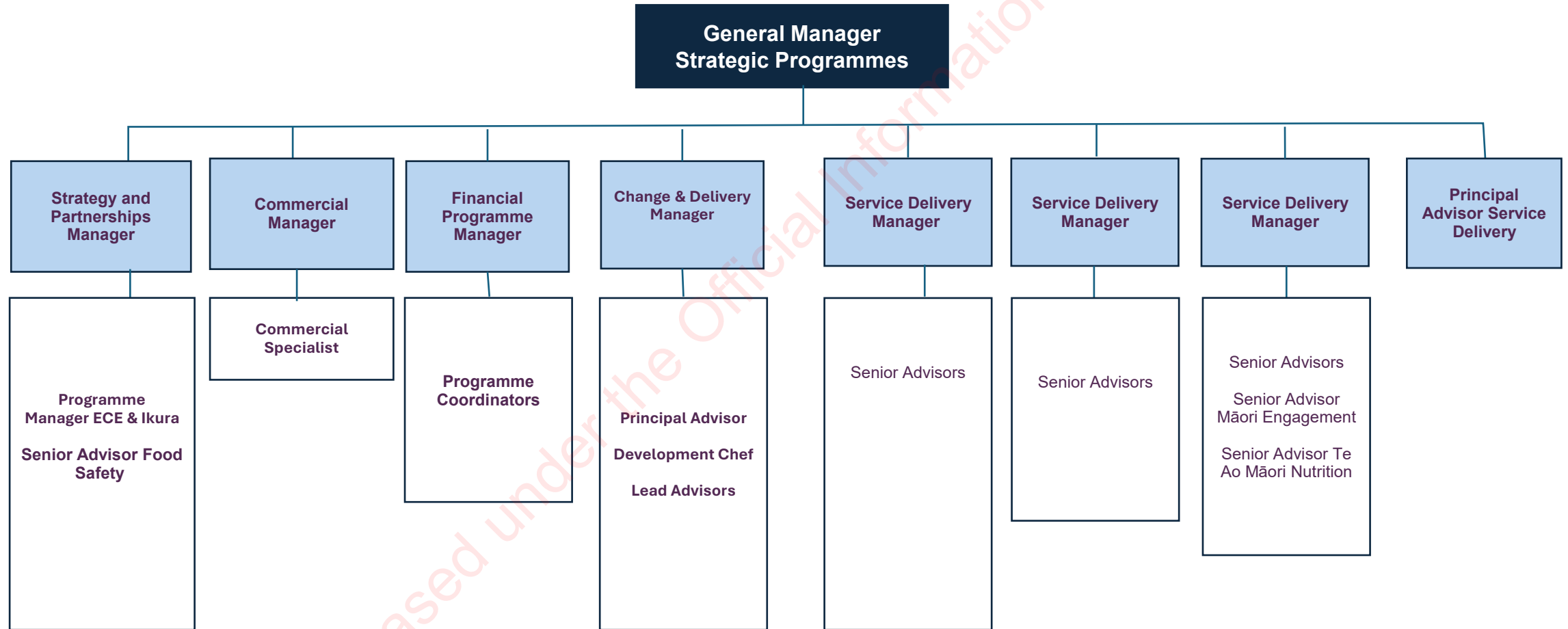
Nāku noa, nā



Andrea Williams

**Group General Manager, National Services and Programmes
Te Mahau | Education Services**

Strategic Programmes Org Chart – FTEs April 2026



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

