

Our ref: OIA20–30

30 June 2020

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST – Data to support our theory that high quality ECE is one of the factors that is supporting young children to be healthy?

I am replying to your email of Friday 19 June which was received as an Official Information Act request.

You requested “any data to support our theory that high quality ECE is one of the factors that is supporting young children to be healthy”, and specifically asked for “any report exploring whether quality of ECE care is increasing”.

With respect to your general request, all ERO individual reviews of early childhood education services report on the quality of both education and care. We do not isolate one particular aspect for further study unless that is a focus for a national report. However, with respect to your interest in young children’s health we do have two reports into food, nutrition and physical activity that may be of use.

The two reports can be accessed through this link at:

<https://www.ero.govt.nz/publications/food-nutrition-and-physical-activity-in-nz-schools-and-early-learning-services/>

The first report, published in 2016, focuses on key findings, the second published in 2017 focuses on effective practice. Both take the same baseline information gathered across early childhood education services and schools in 2015. You will note that the sample size for the early learning services – 202 – is much larger than for schools.

ERO found that most schools and services were doing a good job of equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make healthy choices around food, nutrition and physical activity. However, as mentioned above, these two reports do not directly address your causal proposition that high quality ECE supports young children to be healthy or that the overall quality of ECE is increasing.

Further information on how ERO reviews early childhood education service is available on our website <http://www.ero.govt.nz> with information about individual service reports at <https://ero.govt.nz/review-reports/>

Please get back in touch if you have further inquiries.

Ngā mihi



Ruth Shinoda
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