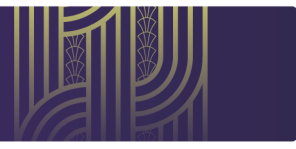




Scan for  
NZSL name



Visual description: A purple Whaikaha logo with a QR scan for the NZSL name.

OIA1172



5 June 2026

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 20 May 2026, to the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha (the Ministry), requesting the following information:

- **how much your agency spent on staff travel in 24-25 and 25-26? Please break down by international and domestic. For international trips, please advise what the purpose was and who went.**

You later clarified you were seeking transport costs. The table below details the cost incurred by the Ministry of Disabled People for staff travel for each financial year, up to April 2026.

Please note the Ministry became a standalone agency on 1 December 2024, so data for the 2024/2025 period only starts from 1 December 2024.

**Table 1: Staff travel (transport) costs per financial year**

Staff Travel	2024/2025	2025/2026
<b>Domestic airfares</b>	\$20,845	\$39,538
<b>Domestic ground travel</b>	\$9,718	\$23,412
<b>International airfares</b>	\$16,109	\$20,839
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,672</b>	<b>\$83,788</b>

Domestic ground travel includes taxi charges, mileage, and parking costs.



In 2025, the Ministry carried out nationwide community consultation and engagement on the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the New Zealand Sign Language Strategy, which required domestic staff travel.

### **International travel details**

In 2024/25, two Ministry staff (the Chief Executive and a Senior Policy Analyst) travelled to the USA to represent the Ministry at the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of State Parties on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CoSP).

CoSP, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is the formal forum where countries that have signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), including New Zealand, meet to discuss and review how the Convention is being implemented.

In 2025/26, the Ministry paid for two staff members (the Deputy Chief Executive – Policy and Insights and the Group Manager Policy) to represent the Ministry at the 19<sup>th</sup> CoSP in USA, and for one staff member (Kaihoutu – Chief Advisor Māori) to attend the Global Leadership Exchange in Canada.

The Global Leadership Exchange is an opportunity for leaders in mental health, disability, and substance use to share ideas, knowledge, and best practice.

In accordance with the Ministry's travel policy, to manage carbon emissions and costs, travel must be undertaken only when the purpose of the travel cannot be achieved effectively through any other means, for example using digital technology. Travel decisions take business needs fully into account, factoring in best outcomes for our clients and communities.

Please note, as part of its commitment towards increasing transparency, the Ministry intends to make the information contained in this letter, and any attached documents, available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted, and no information that would identify you as the requestor will be released.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, or if you are seeking any further information, please contact [OIA\\_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMW', with a horizontal line underneath.

Emma Williams  
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services