

22 September 2023

██████████
████████████████████

REF: OIA-13480

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please have details of the cost of this initiative ("Waka Kotahi Initiative for children to play in streets"), both in total and then broken down. I would like to know costs from the start of this idea through to implementing it please.

Press coverage: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/496849/waka-kotahi-initiative-yes-children-you-can-play-in-the-street>

Please see attached table for a breakdown of costs incurred by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency from the Play Streets initiative. These costs are primarily associated with piloting the Play Streets concept in New Zealand and the development of the Play Street Guidelines - <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/play-streets/>. The guidelines provide guidance to councils on policies and processes that ensure Play Streets can be hosted by communities safely, easily, and cost-effectively.

Also, was any consideration given to the fact that the children may now think a normal road with cars travelling at 50kph (or faster in less built-up areas) is a play area?

I'm not sure that young children will be able to differentiate between a closed off "play area" road and a normal road being used by traffic.

Play Streets are not intended to encourage children to play on the road unsafely. International studies looking at Play Streets found that children can understand the difference between a specific event which has traffic restrictions in place and normal circumstances.

Play Street sessions give caregivers and children the opportunity to talk to about road safety and the danger of traffic. These sessions also give families and communities the opportunity to see what streets could be like if traffic was less dominant or travelled slower.

Please see the University of Bristol report *Why temporary street closures for play makes sense for public health* which illustrates this point on page 39. https://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Play-England_Why-temporary-street-closures-make-sense-for-public-health-1.pdf.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Greer Hawley, Senior Advisor, Multimodal Integration, by email to greer.hawley@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deborah Hume
National Manager, Multimodal Integration

| Project | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 | Total |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| RDC Group - Coordinated the first Play Street pilots in 2020/2021 alongside Waka Kotahi and seven participating councils. The pilot aimed to understand how Play Streets could be run in New Zealand safely, easily, and cost-effectively. A report summarised the key lessons, recommendations, and next steps. The results of the pilot were then used to write the draft Play Streets Guidelines, which provide guidance to councils on safe and effective processes for Play Streets. | \$57,000.00 | \$31,800.00 | | | | \$88,800.00 |
| Tāmaki Makaurau Play Streets Pilot - Auckland Council (a trial funded through the Innovating Streets for People programme) *. This involved testing the draft Play Street Guidelines through 11 Play Street events across Auckland. | | \$139,749.10 | | | | \$139,749.10 |
| Parallax Limited - technical review of the draft Play Street guidelines by Temporary Traffic Management specialist | | \$2675.00 | | | | \$2675.00 |
| Parallax Limited - Play Street Guidelines implementation, including technical traffic management expertise to support councils to develop policies and processes for Play Streets that are safe and cost-effective | | | \$25,498.00 | | | \$25,498.00 |
| Parallax Limited – Development of training videos, in partnership with Waka Kotahi. These were based on the needs of councils and the sector and covered key topics such as Health & Safety and traffic restriction processes. | | | | \$18,571.45 | \$9,137.50 | \$27,708.95 |
| | | | | | | \$284,431.05 |

*The Tāmaki Makaurau Play Streets Pilot total cost was \$155,276.77, as per the Innovating Streets Fund, Waka Kotahi contributed 90% of funding, the other 10% was funded by Auckland Council.