

22 May 2025



s9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 2425-1086

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Response to your Official Information Act request

I refer to your email of 13 May 2025 to Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would be grateful for any information your office could provide about current government support for ethnic community funding. In particular, I am interested in whether there has been targeted support for Cantonese-speaking communities, including grants, cultural initiatives, or language programmes.

I note that across the Tasman, the Australian Labor Government pledged \$25 million toward the teaching of community languages. I would be interested to know if there are any similar initiatives in New Zealand, especially in relation to Cantonese or other heritage languages.

On 13 May 2025, your request was transferred to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry), as the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry.

The Ministry administers the Ethnic Communities Development Fund (ECDF), which provides \$4.2 million annually to support initiatives that contribute to community development and social cohesion in ethnic communities. Although there is no targeted funding for Cantonese-speaking communities, funding is available for projects that align with the Ministry's strategic priorities, which can include projects such as grants, cultural initiatives or language programmes. Further information on the fund, including how to apply and a list of previously funded projects, is available on the Ministry's website at: www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/funding/ethnic-communities-development-fund/.

In addition, the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust (the Trust), which is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs, was established in 2004 in support of the formal apology issued to the early settler Chinese community for the hardship caused by the poll tax. The Trust seeks to promote and support the preservation of Chinese New Zealand history, culture and language. This includes making funding available for Cantonese-speaking communities. More information about the fund can be found on the Hāpai Hapori website at: www.communitymatters.govt.nz/chinese-poll-tax-heritage-trust.

It's also important to note that the government has a range of grants and funds available to New Zealanders, including those from Ethnic Communities. Many of these funds are publicly listed and accessible online.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:
Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

Proactively released by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities