

The Treasury

Budget 2017 Information Release

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[1]	to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government	6(a)
[4]	to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	6(c)
[11]	to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.	6(e)(vi)
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[31]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility	9(2)(f)(ii)
[33]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials	9(2)(f)(iv)
[34]	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions	9(2)(g)(i)
[36]	to maintain legal professional privilege	9(2)(h)
[37]	to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantages or prejudice	9(2)(i)
[38]	to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice	9(2)(j)
[39]	to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	9(2)(k)
[40]	Not in scope	

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) and section 18 of the Official Information Act.

Emerging BGA and tertiary education packages

At the previous meeting on tertiary education, Minister Goldsmith expressed three priorities for Budget 2017. The priorities were foundation education, an across-the-board tuition subsidy increase to support tertiary providers, and incentivising quality by increasing the Performance-based Research Fund (PBRF).

[33] The BGA Leadership Group has discussed the package and will be putting forward additional recommendations for investment in tertiary education, [33]

Initiative	4 year total (millions)
[33]	
Workplace Literacy and Numeracy*	-
CNZ integration into the TEC*	-
[33]	
Strengthening the Foundations for Sustainable Growth of International Education	\$6.8
[33]	

*Proposed to be funded from 2016/17 SAC underspends

** The BGA Leadership Group considers baseline funding from multiple agencies a viable funding option.

The tuition subsidy increase is included in the BGA package as a placeholder until decisions have been made about how to invest in tertiary education (tuition subsidy increases or increasing the PBRF).

We understand that Minister Goldsmith will now propose a 1% tuition subsidy increase (\$69.3 million over four years). An across-the-board tuition subsidy increase is not Treasury's preferred option. However, if Ministers want to increase investment in tertiary education, Treasury would prioritise a 1% tuition subsidy increase rather than increasing the PBRF [33]

Other potential areas for investment

If Ministers wish to invest in other areas of tertiary education above the current BGA package, [33]

If Ministers decide to invest in a 1% tuition subsidy increase, as well as other recommended initiatives, the total tertiary package could be as follows:

Initiative	4 year total (millions)
Tuition subsidy increase (1%)	\$69.3
Workplace Literacy and Numeracy	-
CNZ integration into the TEC	-
[33]	
Strengthening the Foundations for Sustainable Growth of International Education	\$6.8
[33]	

[33]