

12/06/24

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/38

On the evening of Friday 31 May 2024, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- 1. How many New Zealand citizens living in Australia voted in the 2020 NZ election?*
- 2. Which political parties did they vote for? Please provide the numbers by political parties.*
- 3. How many New Zealand citizens living in Australia voted in the 2023 NZ election?*
- 4. Which political parties did they vote for? Please provide the numbers by political parties.*

On Wednesday 5 June 2024 you further clarified your request:

*I just want to clarify an error I made in my request by using the word 'NZ citizens'.
It should actually be NZ citizens AND permanent residents living in Australia.*

We are declining your request under s18(e) of the OIA as the information you have requested is not held by the Electoral Commission. The Commission is not able to identify which votes cast in Australia are from New Zealand citizens or permanent residents who are either living in Australia or were temporarily visiting when they voted. Also, the Commission does not link an individual's details to whom they vote for due to processes that maintain the secrecy of the ballot.

Our records do not distinguish between New Zealand citizens residing overseas from those who may be temporarily visiting from New Zealand or other countries at the time of voting. New Zealand citizens voting from overseas are not required to have updated their enrolment details to reflect their residence overseas, it is possible that they could be temporarily visiting another country when voting, while also residing elsewhere in the world.

All voting data for New Zealand citizens voting from overseas is aggregated and does not provide a breakdown by specific countries of residence. At the time of votes being counted, we are unable to identify individual voters or their specific voting location. This ensures the secrecy and confidentiality of each voter and their voting preferences.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Martin Rodgers
Director, Voting Services