

20 March 2024

Simon Tegg  
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Tēnā koe Simon

## Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00039071

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 25 February 2024, regarding the Gender Affirming Primary Care Advisory Group (GAPCAG), specifically:

1. *Please provide the names and roles of the members of the GAPCAG and the project team as described in the GAPCAG Terms of Reference.*
2. *Please also provide all information related to puberty blockers authored or received by members of GAPCAG or the project team.*

### Response

1. *Please provide the names and roles of the members of the GAPCAG and the project team as described in the GAPCAG Terms of Reference.*

I am declining to provide the names and roles of the members of the GAPCAG and the project team as described in the Terms of Reference pursuant to the following sections of the Act.

Section 9(2)(a) i.e. “...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased”, and Section 9(2)(g)(ii) i.e. “...to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.”

2. *Please also provide all information related to puberty blockers authored or received by members of GAPCAG or the project team.*

One email has been identified for release within the scope of your request. This is attached as Appendix one. I also refer you to Appendix two, which is a summary of relevant excerpts from the GAPCAG meeting minutes held between July 2023 and February 2024 relating to puberty blockers.

We have redacted information in the Appendices pursuant to the following sections of the Act.

Section 9(2)(a) i.e. “...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased”, and Section 9(2)(g)(ii) i.e. “...to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.”

Note: In making the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing this information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz). If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman.

Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



## Deborah Woodley

Director Starting Well  
Commissioning

From: 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 10:53 am  
To: 9(2)(a)  
Cc: 9(2)(a)  
Subject: Update on evidence brief - puberty blockers

Hi 9(2)(a)

Thank you for following this up and for the information. I hope we can see what the brief says when they are done. I wonder if MOH do evidence briefs for other medical care? I don't recall seeing any.

Thank you

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 10:53 am  
To: 9(2)(a)  
Cc: 9(2)(a)  
Subject: Update on evidence brief - puberty blockers

Kia ora kōrua,

9(2)(a) and I have been following up about the evidence brief of puberty blockers, and how they had planned to factor in engagement with external stakeholders such as yourselves. From what I hear, others have also been asking for updates and we are now able to share the update below with you:

*'The Evidence Brief is still being drafted. The Evidence Brief is primarily a scientific assessment of questions raised regarding safety and reversibility of puberty blockers based on currently available research studies. Within this scope it has remained as a process within the Ministry of Health and is intended to provide information regarding the current state of evidence to Te Whatu Ora and clinicians as they work with young people. The Evidence Brief is not intended to be directive about clinical practice which is where wider engagement would be important.'*

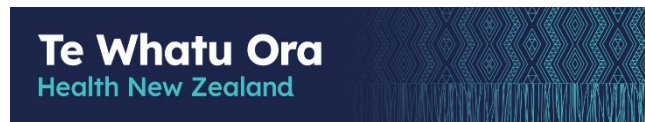
I understand that this means they won't be engaging with external stakeholders as a part of this process. If either or both of you would like to discuss this further, I'm very happy to schedule in a meeting for us.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

**Project Manager – Gender-Affirming Primary Care  
Primary Health Care System Improvement and Innovation/Commissioning**

9(2)(a)



Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)

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11 July 2023

**Update on the Manatū Hauora evidence review**

9(2)(g)(ii) and 9(2)(a) provided an update of the evidence review being conducted by Manatū Hauora. It was noted that the scope of the original evidence brief has recently been broadened. This means that, among other things, membership of the panel will be revised. This will result in a delay in this work being completed.

3 October 2023

**Manatū Hauora review**

It was noted that there hasn't been a further update on the progress of the Manatū Hauora puberty blocker review.

7 November 2023

There were no further updates on the Manatū Hauora Puberty Blockers Evidence Review, but it was noted that there was a proactive release of an Official Information Act (OIA) response on the Manatū Hauora website.

5 December 2023

**Update on puberty blockers**

A draft is expected to be released soon although publication may be held until the beginning of next year to allow time for review.

15 February 2024

The Puberty Blockers Evidence Review will shortly be released. This is a systematic review led by Manatū Hauora, and the evidence is unlikely to bring up anything unknown regarding the use of puberty blockers.