

02 November 2018

Ruth Hill  
Reporter  
Radio New Zealand  
P O Box 123,  
Wellington 6140

E-mail: [Ruth.Hill@rnz.co.nz](mailto:Ruth.Hill@rnz.co.nz)

Dear Ms Hill,

#### **Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received 04 October 2018. You requested the following information:

- 1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?**
- 2. How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**
- 3. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**
- 4. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

Our response uses information from the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services. There are limitations in the patient medical files coding systems, which would necessitate a significant manual audit of patient files to answer some of your queries. We are providing information that is reasonably accessible either from electronic coding, service reporting, or information prepared in response to other Official Information Act requests, covering provision since 2014/15.

Consequently, the information provided below has some limitations, which are noted alongside the relevant data. Some of the data may be available for one service or DHB, where it not is available for another. Where applicable, this has also been noted below each question.

We also note that your query is specific to referrals for Hormone Therapy. However, the data available is for the total number of patients referred for Gender Affirming Care. Therefore, in each data table provided there may be included a cohort who have been referred for Gender Affirming Care, but are not receiving Hormone Therapy. This is most notable for the Centre for Youth Health service, where it is common for patients to be solely on hormone blockers but not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

We are not able to provide all of the data you requested, due to the manually intensive nature of reviewing patient files, and lack of electronic flags to indicate which files should be reviewed for this

treatment detail. We therefore refuse your request for data on this topic prior to 2014, under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, due to substantial collation or research.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you have the right to seek an independent review from the Office of the Ombudsman, whose contact details are available via [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

We note that with the development of regional Gender Affirming Healthcare Services for Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB, the recording and reporting of patient information is improving.

General information about the services available to transgender people presenting for services at Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB is available at:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/sexual-health/hauora-tahine-pathways-to-transgender-healthcare/>

**1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?**

The number of people *referred* to the DHB for any Gender Affirming care is extracted from DHB databases across Metro Auckland DHBs, from 1 July 2014 (**Table 1**). Reporting the number of referrals prior to this date would require substantial manual review and collation from individual outpatient medical files.

	Year			
DHB	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Counties Manukau DHB	18	56	36	79

**Table 1**

These numbers represent First Appointments with a person for the purpose of receiving Gender Affirming Care that may, but does not always include hormone therapy – at either the youth or adult service. We note these numbers may underestimate of the true number of people receiving hormone therapy, as some referrals are received by other specialty services. These other referrals are not coded electronically as specifically related to Gender-Affirming care.

**2. How many were treated within the DHB, and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**

Gender Affirming care across Metro Auckland is delivered by two services: Sexual Health delivers an Adult service, via Auckland DHB; Centre for Youth Health deliver a Youth service, via Counties Manukau DHB. Both services offer outpatient clinics across Metro-Auckland to the populations of Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs. No referrals to other DHBs outside of Waitemata, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs are made for Hormone Therapy.

**3. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**

The ages detailed below (**Table 2**) are inclusive of all people referred to and seen by either the youth or adult service. It includes those who have been referred for gender exploration, but have not received hormone therapy.

	Year			
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Counties Manukau DHB	Min age	Not available <sup>1</sup>	Not available <sup>1</sup>	Not available <sup>1</sup>
	Max age	50	61	63
	Median age	30 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>2</sup>	29 <sup>2</sup>

**Table 2**

<sup>1</sup> Data on ages is not available for those in Counties Manukau DHB who attend the youth service.

<sup>2</sup> Median ages for Counties Manukau DHB are calculated using age data for the Adult service only, as age data for the Youth service for Counties Manukau is not available at this time.

**4. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

This service is run on an outpatient basis, and this clinical treatment information is not coded electronically. The available information (**Table 3**) is based on the current caseload of the Centre for Youth Health for Counties Manukau cases only.

	Year			
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Counties Manukau DHB	Male to female	Not Available		16 <sup>3</sup>
	Female to male			14 <sup>3</sup>
	Non binary			0 <sup>3</sup>

**Table 3**

<sup>3</sup> Data complete up to 1 May 2018. Not complete for the full 2017/18 year.

Further collation of this data is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive