

7 May 2019

Gloria Fraser

Email: fyi-request-10087-55ad51ca@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Fraser

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 12 April 2019 requesting the following information:

Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Taranaki District Health Board for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:

Health Care Service	Yes/No	Comment
<i>Puberty blockers</i>	Yes	
<i>Hormone therapy</i>	Yes	
<i>Mastectomy</i>	N/A	Taranaki DHB does not have a Plastic Surgery department; referrals are sent through to the Plastic Service at Waikato DHB, our tertiary provider.
<i>Hysterectomy</i>		Taranaki DHB would perform a hysterectomy if it is clinically indicated.
<i>Orchidectomy</i>	No	
<i>Facial hair removal</i>	No	
<i>Breast augmentation</i>	No	
<i>Voice training</i>	Yes	
<i>Facial feminization surgery</i>	No	

Could you please also advise:

- Are transgender healthcare providers under the Taranaki District Health Board encouraged to follow Oliphant et al's (2018) Guidelines for gender affirming healthcare for gender diverse and transgender children, young people and adults in Aotearoa New Zealand? If not, which guidelines do they follow, if any?

Taranaki DHB clinicians use a variety of international or national based guidelines.

- International: WPATH (World Professional Association for Transgender Health)
- National: there are no official nation wide guidelines, however Taranaki DHB clinicians also use the Auckland based work-group guidelines, with some adjustment to the Taranaki region.

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- Is a readiness assessment required to access gender-affirming healthcare services? (This is an assessment of readiness for treatment from a medical and psychosocial perspective, as well as whether the client understands the risks and benefits of treatment, and is sometimes referred to as a 'mental health assessment').

- If a readiness assessment is required, the clinician will either complete their own assessment or refer the patient to a contracted external psychotherapist.

- If a readiness assessment is required to access gender-affirming healthcare services, who carries out this assessment? Is this assessment funded by the Taranaki District Health Board? Does the assessment use an informed consent model?

- The assessment can be carried out by a relevant Taranaki DHB Clinician or the contracted external psychotherapist.
- External assessments are funded by Taranaki DHB.
- The contracted external psychotherapist is required to obtain signed consent at the initial consultation session.

- What steps is the Taranaki District Health Board taking to improve healthcare provision for transgender New Zealanders?

Steps which were under taken in Taranaki DHB include:

- Taranaki DHB has a contract with a primary service for diagnosis and support of clients and their families.
- Establishing local services and guidelines.
- Establishing working relationships with local primary groups (e.g. Rainbow Youth) for better transitioning of clients and meeting their needs.
- An interest group meets yearly.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer