



6 May 2019

Gloria Fraser
Fyi-request-10081-e75546c6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gloria

Official Information Act Request

On 12 April 2019 you asked for information on gender affirming healthcare services provided by Northland DHB.

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

- Puberty blockers
- Hormone therapy
- Mastectomy
- Hysterectomy
- Orchidectomy
- Facial hair removal
- Breast augmentation
- Voice training
- Facial feminization surgery

The following services are available: puberty blockers, hormone therapy, mastectomy, hysterectomy, orchidectomy, voice training.

Could you please also advise:

- *Are transgender healthcare providers under the Northland 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?*

Yes

- *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').*

Individuals wishing to access gender affirming services provided by Northland DHB are generally referred through primary care providers.

Northland DHB follows guidelines set by the Ministry of Health. As previously advised the guidelines are available on the Ministry's website.

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

Northland DHB funds assessments required to undertake gender affirming healthcare provided by our services. Assessments are undertaken by a multidisciplinary team and may include assessment by a mental health professional. The assessment uses an informed consent model.

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

On 16 April 2019 you asked for the following additional information:

Could you please advise how many transgender people received each of the following services, specifically for gender-affirming healthcare purposes, within the 2018 calendar year?

- Puberty blockers*
- Hormone therapy*
- Mastectomy*
- Hysterectomy*
- Orchidectomy*
- Facial hair removal*
- Breast augmentation*
- Voice training*
- Facial feminization surgery*

Puberty Blockers: 1

Hormone therapy: 20

Voice therapy 3

Spermatozoa preservation 1

If you have any queries regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive