

2 July 2019

Brodie Fraser

Email: [fyi-request-10544-5099d6b4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10544-5099d6b4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Brodie

**Re: Official Information Act request - Number of transgender patients referred to endocrine services**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act, partially transferred from the Ministry of Health, received 20 June 2019 seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- 1. How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by year?*
- 2. How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by DHB?*

To answer these questions, information from the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services has previously been accessed. 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. DHB information systems do not code for transgender and it cannot be assumed a referral of a transgender person to endocrine services is for transgender healthcare.

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

Data available is based on total patients referred for gender-affirming care. Therefore, there may be included in each data point below 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 are not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

General information about the services available to transgender people presenting for endocrine services at Waitematā, 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, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in the past five years, broken down by year?

The number of people referred to the DHB for gender-affirming healthcare is able to be extracted from DHB databases across Metro Auckland DHBs from 1 July 2015 onwards and, therefore, we are only able to provide the past three years.

DHB	Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Waitematā DHB	Not available	Not available	11	49	90

These numbers represent first appointments by a person for the purpose of receiving gender-affirming medical care - which may include hormone therapy - at either the youth or adult service. We note these numbers may underestimate the true number of people receiving hormone therapy, as some referrals are received by other services. These other referrals are not coded electronically.

2. How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by DHB?

Gender-affirming care across Metro Auckland is delivered by two services: Sexual Health deliver an adult service, provided by Auckland DHB; Centre for Youth Health deliver a youth service, provided by Counties Manukau DHB. Both services offer clinics across Metro Auckland to the populations of Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

No referrals to DHBs outside of Waitematā, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs are made for hormone therapy.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Debbie Holdsworth**  
**Director Funding**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**