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Brodie Fraser

Email: fyi-request-10544-5099d6b4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Brodie

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

I refer to your official information request received 20 June 2019, partially transferred from the Ministry of Health, seeking the following of Auckland 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?**

Information provided by the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services has been used to answer these questions. 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 service 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
Auckland DHB	Not available	Not available	29	69	97

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 this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



Ailsa Claire OBE
Chief Executive Officer
Auckland District Health Board