



27 May 2020

K Roe

By email to fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Roe

I write in response to your Official Information Act request of 6 May 2020. I respond to each of your queries, which I have taken to refer to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB), as follows:

- 1) *How they may obtain an application to enrol. The University of Otago seems to think that it doesn't need to supply applications to enrol.*

Information on application for enrolment for the MB ChB is available online at

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/medicine/index.html#application-process>

- 2) *Whether the Council is aware of the Education Act. Please can the public be informed of how the University believes the selection / eligibility criterion they inform people of sits with the Education Act. If the Council does not believe the Education Act applies to them or applies to them with respect to particular programmes of study then please explain how / why this is the case.*

From the context of your message, I take this part of your request to refer to your statements that:

When I read the Education Act I think it means that I (as a domestic student who has attained the age of 20 years) am entitled to be enrolled in MBChB should I choose to apply to that Degree Programme...

I don't see how or why the council believes it is consistent with the Education Act for the council to select students who are under 20 years of age or to select students who have experience in healthcare so as to fill up all the training places in this manner, however.

The Council is certainly aware of the Education Act ('the Act'). The MB ChB has an established maximum number of students it may enrol each year, pursuant to Section 224(5) of the Act. There is nothing in the Act that suggests or requires that in determining who shall be enrolled in a programme where demand for places from eligible applicants exceeds available places, that students who are aged over 20 must be given preference. Age is not a determining factor in the selection of candidates for the MB ChB at Otago.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stoddart
Registrar
University of Otago