

26 February 2014

Mr Dave Body  
fyi-request-1426-0cc097a2@request.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Body

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your emailed request of 2 February 2014, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. The total number of (i) spinal fusions and (ii) spinal fusions using anterior lumbar inter-body fusion (ALIF) devices for each of the last 5 years paid for by the ACC; and
2. The total cost of (i) those surgeries for each year and (ii) the total cost of the ALIF devices used in those surgery for each year.

ACC is pleased to provide you with this information in the following tables.

**Table 1: Total number of spinal fusion services for the financial years 2008/09 to 2012/13**

Service type	Claims lodged by financial year				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Anterior inter body fusions	12	17	7	4	<4
Remainder of spinal fusion procedures	815	711	644	627	659

*NB: When providing statistical data, ACC is mindful that with very low figures, it can be possible to identify individual clients, therefore revealing personal medical or other information. As standard practice, therefore, ACC does not release any data where the number of claims is less than four. This decision is pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.*

**Table 2: Costs of spinal fusion services paid by ACC, excl GST for the financial years 2008/09 to 2012/13**

Service type	\$ cost by financial year				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Anterior inter body fusions	132,394	224,012	89,766	60,148	30,074
Remainder of spinal fusion procedures	9,562,187	8,636,398	8,050,781	8,178,300	8,691,117

I hope you find this information useful. You can contact me at [gabby.boag@acc.co.nz](mailto:gabby.boag@acc.co.nz) if you have any questions about this letter. If you're unhappy with ACC's response, you may make a

complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabby Boag', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Gabby Boag  
**Senior Advisor**