

3 September 2014

Mr Mark Hanna
<mailto:fyi-request-1891-2f91fbc2@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Mr Hanna

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 13 August 2014 in which you asked for the following information:

"In 2011, ACC's research team conducted a literature review of 'the efficacy of acupuncture in the management of musculoskeletal pain'. It found the most convincing evidence for the effectiveness of acupuncture related to the treatment of chronic neck pain and the improvement of pain and mobility in chronic shoulder pain. In terms of other injuries, evidence of the benefits of acupuncture was either inconclusive or insufficient.

I have been unable to find this particular review by searching on the ACC website, although I have found other reports such as the 'Effectiveness of acupuncture in selected mental health conditions' brief report from earlier this year.

Could you please provide me with copies of or links to all literature reviews regarding the effectiveness of acupuncture for any condition undertaken by ACC. If a review has been superceded by a later review, I'd be happy to just see the latest review.

Also, if ACC has any guidelines for carrying out these reviews, could you please provide me with a copy of or link to these guidelines."

There are only two ACC literature reviews on the efficacy of acupuncture. These are:

[The efficacy of acupuncture in the management of musculoskeletal pain.](#)

I understand from your email of 25 August 2014 that you have accessed a copy of this report and therefore do not require another copy.

[Effectiveness of acupuncture in selected mental health conditions – Brief report 2014.](#)

As you have identified, this is available on the ACC website.

In regard to ACC guidelines on literature reviews, ACC follows standard practice when undertaking literature reviews, and there are no ACC specific guidelines on this practice.

ACC is happy to answer your questions

If you have any questions or concerns, I will be happy to work with you to resolve these. I can be contacted via email at Lisa.White@acc.co.nz.

If you are still not happy, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to The Office of the Ombudsman, P O Box 10 152, WELLINGTON 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LW', written in a cursive style.

Lisa White
Senior Advisor, Government Services