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26 June 2024

Josh

By email: fyi-request-27104-6c6e1510@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2024043292

Tēnā koe Josh

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 2 June 2024 for information. You requested:

“Could you please provide the below information How many new nurses registered in New Zealand after the COVID-19 lockdown periods, and where are they from? Which English language tests did they pass?”

How does the Ministry of Health ensure the authenticity of language certificates, especially concerning nurses obtaining them through agencies for cash, and has the Ministry considered addressing these concerns, especially given recent inquiries in Ireland and the UK regarding fake certificates?

Why hasn't the Nursing Council implemented additional cross-checking procedures, particularly considering recent incidents in the UK and Ireland, to verify the authenticity of IELTS and OET scores for nurses who are already registered at least after the post-COVID period?

What measures does the Ministry take to prevent unethical dealings between CAP providers and nursing agents, such as audits, investigations, and compliance training?

Is the Nursing Council planning to restrict new CAP registrations due to high unemployment among newly registered nurses?”

I can confirm that the Ministry has not provided any advice or lines in briefings on International English Language Tests.

The Ministry believes that the information you are obtaining is not about the tests/test scores etc but more concerning authenticating test results.

Your request has been refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act. Please note the Nursing council is not subject to the Official Information Act. You may wish to contact the Nursing Council for this information as it is their responsibility to authenticate results. The Ministry does not hold any information on English tests and Council authentication.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lorraine Hetaraka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lorraine Hetaraka
Chief Nursing Officer
Clinical, Community and Mental Health | Te Pou Whakakaha