

11 April 2025

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Jan Rivers
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Tēnā koe Jan

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00083846

Thank you for your email on 28 March 2025, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I have noted that Health New Zealand is now using non sex-specific terms in relation to women's health. This involves changes from women, woman, pregnant women to terms such as pregnant people, parents, pregnant person and women / person to refer to women in relation to medical care. applies to the website and to the newer papers.

Please can you provide sources created by Te Whatu Ora since interim Health New Zealand organisation was established in September 2021 that provide:

*the source of the request to make the change
the evidence base that was considered when making this change (including any benefits and to whom they were anticipated to accrue.)
the policy paper recommending the changes be made
the minutes of the meeting where the decision was made.*

Response

Health NZ does not have a policy relating to the use of gender-inclusive language.

In terms of the way we use gender inclusive language in Starting Well | Kahu Taurima, our team follows the Public Service Commission's guidance on Rainbow inclusive language (found [here](#)), which in turn follows the United Nation's Guidelines for Gender-Inclusive Language <https://www.un.org/en/gender-inclusive-language/guidelines.shtml>.

As such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at HNZOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



PP

Danielle Coe

Manager (OIAs) – Government Services
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora