

25 June 2018

P. Lamborn
via email

E-mail: fyi-request-7905-4c0c9124@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lamborn,

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, regarding surgical techniques for gender reassignment surgery for trans-women (vaginoplasty) and trans-men (phalloplasty). On 29 May 2018, the Ministry of Health transferred one of your questions to us under Section 14 of the Act.

The specific part of the request transferred to CMDHB is:

“What surgical techniques (for both vaginoplasty and phalloplasty) are to be performed by Dr Rita Yang?”

Dr Yang is employed by CM Health as a Consultant (Senior Medical Officer) Plastic Surgeon to further the ability of the Plastic Surgery Department to meet the reconstructive surgery needs of the regional community. Dr Yang is a fully-trained Plastic Surgeon, who has undertaken additional post-graduate training in a full range of microvascular and transgender procedures. At CM Health, Ms Yang is not currently performing either of the procedures you specify; and therefore we cannot further define the techniques used for any procedures.

Please refer to the ‘Gender Reassignment Surgery’ page on the Ministry of Health website, for the agreed current New Zealand clinical practices related to access to surgeries for gender re-assignment:

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/delivering-health-services-transgender-people/gender-reassignment-surgery>

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Gloria Johnson
Chief Executive (Acting)