



20 June 2018

Gloria Fraser
fyi-request-7911-deedddccd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gloria

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about the gender-affirming healthcare services provided by Northland DHB.

- *Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Northland District Health Board for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:*
 - *Hormone therapy*
 - *Mastectomy*
 - *Hysterectomy*
 - *Orchidectomy*
 - *Facial hair removal*
 - *Breast augmentation*
 - *Voice training*

The following services are available: hormone therapy, mastectomy, hysterectomy, orchidectomy, voice training.

- *Could you please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available? Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services?*

Individuals wishing to access gender affirming services are generally referred through primary care providers. Northland DHB follows the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health. The guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.moh.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/delivering-health-services-transgender-people/gender-reassignment-surgery).

Assessments are undertaken by a multidisciplinary team. This may include assessment by a mental health professional.

- *In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?*

Primary health providers are able to prescribe hormone therapy.

- *Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?*

Yes; generally 1-2 years minimum real life experience is required to access surgery.

- *Finally, could you please advise what the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the Northland District Health Board does not offer this service? Does the Northland District Health Board currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?*

Patients have been referred to the Ministry of Health waiting list for gender reassignment surgery.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive