

20 June 2018

Gloria Fraser

Email: fyi-request-7915-35d98c22@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gloria

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 23 May 2018, requesting the following information:

- *Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Taranaki 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*

If deemed appropriate, Taranaki DHB is able to provide the following services for transgender patients:

- Hormone therapy
- Mastectomy
- Hysterectomy
- Orchidectomy

- *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?*

Yes an assessment is required. This would be conducted by our Mental Health Service, including the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service.

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

Yes however this does need initial approval by an Endocrinologist.

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

Taranaki DHB is unsure what this question is referring to.

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

If it was appropriate that transgender patients require this treatment and the patient had been accepted for care in another region, Taranaki DHB would fund this.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer