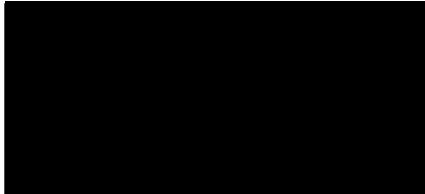




5 September 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – dental and oral health therapists current and future staffing projections

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received 24 August 2018, seeking information from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) on:

1. *“What is the number of dental and oral health therapists currently employed by Auckland, Waitemata, Counties Manukau and Northland DHBs? Please provide numbers for each DHB.*
2. *How many dental and oral health therapist roles are currently vacant in each DHB?*
3. *What is the projected number of dental and oral health therapists by Auckland, Waitemata, Counties Manukau and Northland DHBs in 2019? Please provide numbers for each DHB.”*

The Auckland Regional Dental Service (ARDS) provides oral health and dental services to approximately 273,000 preschool and school-aged children, up to and including school year eight students, living in the Auckland metropolitan area. The service is managed by Waitemata DHB on behalf of the three Auckland metropolitan DHBs (that, is Auckland DHB, Counties Manukau Health and Waitemata DHB).

The table below outlines the number of dental and oral health therapists currently employed¹ and the number of vacancies by DHB of clinic location. Please note, Northland DHB information has not been provided, as ARDS do not deliver services in this area.

DHB	Budgeted FTE	Actual FTE	Vacancies
Auckland DHB	42.30	32.70	9.60
Counties Manukau Health	70.40	61.10	9.30
Waitemata DHB	60.40	56.15	4.30
TOTAL	173.10	149.95	23.20

¹ Current employ is at 31 August 2018

Recent analysis undertaken indicates that there are a number of reasons that dental and oral health therapists are choosing to leave the service. These include retirement, moving out of Auckland and moving into private practice.

In order to address this, the service is:

- Implementing additional supports for new and recent graduates
- Identifying opportunities to develop new roles and introduce new models of care
- Partnering with staff to offer more flexibility in location and hours of work
- Identifying strategies to enable dual-trained (dental therapy and hygiene) therapists to maintain competency across both scopes of practice.

The table below outlines the projected number of dental and oral health therapists, by DHB of clinic location, for 2019.

DHB	Projected FTE 2019
Auckland DHB	42.30
Counties Manukau Health	70.40
Waitemata DHB	60.40
TOTAL	173.10

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Cath Cronin
Director of Hospital Services
Waitemata District Health Board