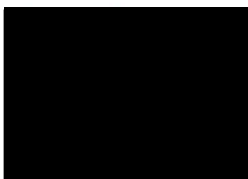


25 October 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – Rates of people identifying as transgender who present to endocrine services

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act received 4 October 2018 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

1. *How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?*
2. *How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?*
3. *What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?*
4. *How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?*

To answer these questions, information from the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services is accessed. There are some limitations in the patient medical files coding systems, which would necessitate a significant manual audit of patient files to answer some of your queries.

We are providing information that is reasonably accessible either from electronic coding, service reporting, or information prepared in response to other Official Information Act requests. Consequently, the information provided below has some limitations, which is noted alongside the relevant data. Some data may not be available for one service or DHB, where it is available for another. Where applicable, this has also been noted below.

We also note that your query is specific to referral for hormone therapy. Data available is based on total patients referred for gender affirming care. Therefore, there may be included in each data point below a cohort who have been referred for gender affirming care, but are not receiving hormone therapy. This is most notable for the Centre for Youth Health service, where it is common for patients to be solely on hormone blockers but are not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

We are not able to provide the additional data you request, due to the manually intensive nature of reviewing patient files and lack of electronic flags to indicate which files should be reviewed. We do note that with the development of gender affirming healthcare services at Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB, the recording and reporting of patient information is improving.

Waitemata DHB, therefore, refuses your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act relating to substantial collation or research. If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you have the right to seek an independent review from the Office of the Ombudsman, whose contact details are available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

General information about the services available to transgender people presenting for endocrine services at Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB is available at:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/sexual-health/hauora-tahine-pathways-to-transgender-healthcare/>

1. *How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?*

The number of people referred to the DHB for gender affirming healthcare is able to be extracted from DHB databases across Metro Auckland DHBs from 1 July 2015. Reporting the number of referrals prior to this would require substantial manual review of outpatient medical files.

DHB	Year			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Waitemata DHB	Not available	11	49	90

These numbers represent first appointments by a person for the purpose of receiving gender affirming medical care – which may include hormone therapy – at either the youth or adult service. We note these numbers may underestimate of the true number of people receiving hormone therapy, as some referrals are received by other services. These other referrals are not coded electronically.

2. *How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?*

Gender Affirming care across Metro Auckland is delivered by two services: Sexual Health deliver an Adult service, provided by Auckland DHB; Centre for Youth Health deliver a Youth service, provided by Counties Manukau DHB. Both services offer clinics across Metro Auckland to the populations of Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

No referrals to DHBs outside of Waitemata, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs are made for hormone therapy.

3. *What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?*

The numbers below are inclusive of all people referred to and seen by either the youth or adult service. It includes those who have been referred for gender exploration but have not received hormone therapy.

DHB	Year			
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Waitemata DHB	Min age	19	12	Under 12 ¹
	Max age	72	68	70
	Median age	28	23	22

¹ Referrals received where coded as Under 12. Further breakdown of ages under 12 is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

4. *How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?*

This service is run on an outpatient basis and is not coded electronically for this purpose. The information has been compiled on a limited bases for the youth service only.

DHB	Year			
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Waitemata DHB	Male to female	0	7	16
	Female to male	0	17	36
	Non binary	0	3	5

Further collation of this data is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

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.

Your sincerely



Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Waitemata District Health Boards