



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Skin cancer

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Ministry of Health on 17 December 2019 seeking information on skin cancer.

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Health (MoH) formally transferred part of your request to Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 - questions detailed below.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 7,500 people across more than 80 different locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request we are able to provide the following information:

1. How much is spent on skin cancer prevention on an annual basis over the last 10 years?

Skin cancer prevention programmes and advertising campaigns are run through such organisations as SunSmart <https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/>, the Health Promotion Agency <https://www.hpa.org.nz/programme/skin-cancer-prevention> and <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/s/skin-cancer/>. Therefore, Waitematā DHB has no spend to report in regards to skin cancer prevention.

2. Number of people suffering skin cancer or undergone skin cancer treatment in NZ per year over the last 10 years. If you have a population breakdown on a regional basis.

As melanoma is a notifiable cancer, cases are reported each year to the Ministry of Health based on which DHB region people live in (DHB of domicile). The most current reporting on population health data is available on the MoH website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/cancer-data-and-stats>

Other lesion types of skin cancers (BCCs and SCCs) are not notified, and we do not collate data as to the prevalence of them.

The vast majority of people suffering skin cancer, or who undergo skin cancer treatment, are managed in either a primary care setting or privately. Therefore, while we cannot supply the full numbers of people in our region who are living with a diagnosis, we can provide figures of those treated within our services.

Patients treated within the DHB are seen across a number of specialities such as otorhinolaryngology (ORL), general surgery and dermatology. This includes treatments such as: excisions, cryotherapy, biopsy of skin and subcutaneous tissue, local skin flaps, other full thickness skin grafts and other split skin grafts.

The figures below provide data on the annual numbers of skin lesions surgically removed at Waitematā DHB-delivered services. They include cases we contract primary care to deliver services for.

This data only captures cases of lesion removal and no other means of treatment. We also do not collect diagnostic data for this activity and the numbers include skin lesion removal for non-skin cancer which we estimate to be approximately 25% of the activity, although it could be up to 50%.

Details for cases treated by Waitematā DHB (mainly as day procedures) by DHB of domicile for Purchase Unit code (PUC) MS02016 (skin lesions) for the time period from 01/01/12 to 05/12/19

Calendar Year	Total	Waitematā	Auckland	Counties Manukau	Northland	Other
2012	1197	1175	12	5	2	3
2013	1604	1582	12	3	6	1
2014	1763	1750	7	0	5	1
2015	2171	2156	7	1	3	4
2016	2841	2823	10	3	3	2
2017	2997	2989	6	0	1	1
2018	3291	3288	3	0	0	0
2019 to 5 Dec	3267	3262	3	0	1	1

Please note the separate PUC of this procedure was first introduced in the 2012 financial year, therefore we cannot accurately isolate such cases in the data prior to this.

3. Costs of any advertising campaigns run by the MOH or DHBs over the last 10 years.

Please refer to our answer in question one. The DHB does not undertake promotion and advertising campaigns.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Holdsworth', written in a cursive style.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Acting Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board