



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
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17 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request – FASD assessments

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 28 November 2018 seeking details from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) on:

1. *Is your DHB able to provide a FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?*
2. *If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment? (How many people and how long is the wait).*

Children with suspected FASD or other neurodevelopmental disorders are referred to the paediatric outpatient service and receive a clinical assessment by a general paediatrician. Following this, children may be referred to the child mental health service and/or child development team for further assessment and/or treatment. Depending on their needs, support may also be provided for families to access community and/or other disability support services.

The DHB has supported staff, including paediatricians, allied health clinicians and child psychiatrists to access additional training on the assessment and diagnosis of FASD.

We do not have any information on how many children with suspected FASD are on our waitlist for a paediatric assessment. All new referrals into the service are reviewed and prioritised according to the clinical needs of the child rather than suspected FASD and our current average wait time for a general paediatric assessment is three months.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath'.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitemata District Health Board