

1 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request – Babies born to drug dependent mothers

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 18 July 2019 seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- *Over the past five years (since January 2014), how many babies have been born under the care of Waitematā District Health to mothers dependent on illegal drugs?*
- *How many of those babies were uplifted by Oranga Tamariki?*
- *How many of those babies required a hospital stay of more than 7 days?*
- *How many of those babies required a hospital stay of more than 14 days?*
- *How many of those babies required medication as a result of withdrawal symptoms?*

Waitematā DHB operates two maternity facilities – one at North Shore Hospital and one at Waitakere Hospital. In a typical 12-month period, our maternity services will be involved in the birth of approximately 7,000 babies.

Women who live in Waitematā DHB with a known drug addiction are generally referred to Auckland DHB to receive care under a specialist team. However, there are some women who have their baby at one of our facilities. This is generally because they have not registered for maternity care or they have support systems in place that would mean that giving birth locally would be advantageous to them.

The table below provides the information you have requested, alongside the total number of births for each calendar year.

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of women giving birth	7004	6777	7022	6840	6604
Mothers with drug addiction	22	16	23	37	36
Babies transitioned to Oranga Tamariki Care	5	5	4	8	8
Babies requiring a hospital stay of >7 days	1	0	0	1	0
Babies requiring a hospital stay of >14 days	1	0	1	0	0
Babies requiring medication for withdrawal	0	0	1	0	0

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā 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', written in a cursive style.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board