



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

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16 July 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – transfers of mothers and newborn babies between DHBs

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 2 July 2019 seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

“How often have expectant mothers and/or newborn babies been transferred from Waitematā DHB to DHBs outside the Auckland area in the past three years?”

Why were they transferred? (e.g. because neonatal ward was at capacity, or because DHB does not ordinarily have the facilities needed in a particular case)

Where were they transferred to?

Were any transferred to Australia?

Can you please tell me the occupancy rates for your neonatal wards over the past three years?”

Transfers

Waitematā DHB provides maternity and neonatal services at both Waitakere and North Shore hospitals. In a typical 12-month period, our services are involved in the birth of approximately 7,000 babies.

A review of discharge data between 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2019 shows that there were no expectant mothers transferred from Waitematā DHB to other DHBs outside the Auckland area.

Within the same time period, there were nine babies transferred from Waitematā DHB to outside metropolitan Auckland. In each case, the babies’ mothers lived in the Northland DHB area and had given birth at Waitematā DHB.

All nine babies were relocated to the care of their DHB-of-domicile when it was clinically safe for them to be transferred home.

Waitematā DHB has not transferred any mothers or newborn babies to Australia in the last three years.

Occupancy

Waitematā DHB has two 12-cot neonatal units, one at North Shore Hospital and one at Waitakere Hospital. The table below outlines average monthly occupancy rates (at midnight) by unit from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2019.

Month	Average Occupancy (%)	
	SCBU North Shore	SCBU Waitakere
Jun 2016	73%	74%
Jul 2016	71%	63%
Aug 2016	78%	73%
Sept 2016	68%	73%
Oct 2016	98%	76%
Nov 2016	94%	95%
Dec 2016	74%	79%
Jan 2017	59%	68%
Feb 2017	83%	78%
Mar 2017	69%	66%
Apr 2017	93%	84%
May 2017	84%	89%
Jun 2017	76%	83%
Jul 2017	60%	59%
Aug 2017	72%	73%
Sept 2017	67%	81%
Oct 2017	55%	62%
Nov 2017	88%	80%
Dec 2017	95%	92%
Jan 2018	80%	78%
Feb 2018	73%	81%
Mar 2018	84%	83%
Apr 2018	89%	96%
May 2018	91%	92%
Jun 2018	76%	77%
Jul 2018	67%	71%
Aug 2018	68%	72%
Sept 2018	93%	92%
Oct 2018	83%	93%
Nov 2018	84%	83%
Dec 2018	82%	92%
Jan 2019	76%	90%
Feb 2019	87%	82%
Mar 2019	92%	85%
Apr 2019	100%	98%
May 2019	93%	100%

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 Cronin', written in a cursive style.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board