



Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
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24 July 2018



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Number of babies born

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 6 July 2018 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

"I'm writing to request figures for the number of babies born for the year June 2017 to June 2018, with a breakdown of mother's ages.

In conjunction, I'd also like to request a breakdown of numbers of births at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals and community birthing centres. As well as a breakdown of vaginal and caesarean births. Both for June 2017 to June 2018"

Waitemata DHB cares for the largest patient population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at just over 630,000 people and operates two maternity facilities – one at North Shore Hospital and one at Waitakere Hospital.

The table below details the numbers of births by age group for North Shore and Waitakere Maternity Units for the period July 2017 – June 2018 (12 months) and separates the births by type of birth (vaginal or caesarean).

AGE	North Shore Hospital			Waitakere Hospital		
	Vaginal	Caesarean	Total	Vaginal	Caesarean	Total
<20	37	14	51	93	9	102
20-24	236	103	339	362	74	436
25-29	649	341	990	611	199	810
30-34	868	538	1,406	658	263	921
35-39	489	401	890	291	153	444
>39	90	98	188	53	42	95
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,369</i>	<i>1,495</i>	<i>3,864</i>	<i>2,068</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>2,808</i>

The rate of vaginal birth at Waitakere Hospital is higher than North Shore, for several reasons, including age and women with highly complex pregnancy issues are advised to give birth at North Shore Hospital due to the availability of the Intensive Care Unit, should it be needed.

At present, there are three primary birthing units operating within the Waitemata DHB catchment – Warkworth Birthing Centre, Helensville Birthing Centre and Wellsford Birthing Unit (one bed). The following table is a breakdown of births at these units (please note: information on births by age not available).

Facility	Number of births
Warkworth	136
Helensville	64
Wellsford	19 ¹

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



Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitemata District Health Board

¹ Excludes births in June 2018 as these have not yet been reported.