

13 February 2020



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Annual budget for population nutrition promotion

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 10 January seeking information from Auckland and Waitematā District Health Boards (DHBs) regarding the DHBs' budget for population nutrition promotion.

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

We are trying to get an overview on the annual government budget for “population nutrition promotion”, which is defined as: “the investments in population promotion of healthy eating and healthy food environments for the prevention of obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), excluding all one-on-one promotion (primary care, antenatal services, maternal and child nursing services etc.), food safety, micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. folate fortification) and under-nutrition”.

We would like to get an estimate of your DHB budget for population nutrition promotion (as per definition above) over the last three years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20). It would be helpful if you could clarify how much of this budget is transferred to public health units (PHUs) and/or public health organisations (PHOs).

Please note, we have excluded programmes in our response such as Green Prescription, Active Families, Healthy Babies Healthy Futures, and Pregnancy and Parenting services delivered to individuals, families and groups.

Many health promotion nutrition services are delivered as part of programmes that also address other lifestyle factors such as physical activity, smoking, and mental wellbeing. The content of the programmes vary across settings and over time. For example, the areas of focus for Health Promoting Schools are chosen by the school and not all schools choose to have nutrition as part of their activities.

Where it is possible, we have estimated the amount of content within a programme that is focused on nutrition; this information is included in the following tables.

The largest specific investment which includes population nutrition promotion in our rohe (region) is Healthy Families NZ - Waitakere. This substantial contract is administered directly by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and will presumably be described in the Ministry's response to this request.

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) provides public health services to all three metro Auckland district health boards and the populations they serve – Waitematā, Counties Manukau Health and Auckland.

ARPHS' population nutrition promotion activity spend is also estimated below. Please note that the funding allocated to ARPHS' activity is across the three regional Auckland DHBs, as described above – ARPHS does not break its budget down by DHB. The funding reflects direct costs and does not include indirect or overhead costs.

2017-18

Health Promotion Initiative	Comment	Expenditure
ARPHS – Public Health Unit	Healthy Auckland Together: the figure provided is an estimate of the expenditure on the nutrition programme.	\$653,000 (for metro-Auckland region)
Enhanced School-Based Health services - ESBHS	The School-Based Health Services (ESBHS) programme in Waitematā DHB delivers primary healthcare services to students in identified secondary schools, including all those in decile 1-3, all Kura Kaupapa Maori, alternative education (AE) facilities and teen parent units (TPUs). ESBHS undertakes various health promotion activities, usually identified by the school, including physical health, mental health, oral health and sexual health. Although nutrition is an ongoing part of health promotion activities; it is a small part of the service component. The expenditure on the nutrition component alone is difficult to estimate.	Not available
Health Promoting Schools	Health Promoting Schools works with schools on their identified area of focus. Whānau and multi-agency engagement is the main identified health and wellbeing priority by schools. Other identified areas are physical health, mental health, student attendance and sexuality education. Nutrition may be included as an additional area of focus. The expenditure on the nutrition component is small and difficult to estimate.	Not available
Pregnancy and Parenting website	The Mokopuna Ora website and app includes information for the public on healthy eating and exercising while pregnant, healthy eating and healthy eating for mother and baby. The development was jointly funded by Auckland DHB, Counties Manukau Health and Waitematā DHB for a total of \$390,169. This included the development of an evidenced-based curriculum. We do not have any basis to determine what portion of the funding is for the nutrition component.	Not available
Nutrition FTE (full-time equivalent)	The joint Waitematā and Auckland DHB Planning and Funding Team employs an individual whose responsibilities include nutrition health promotion.	\$11,606

	The role commenced in September 2015. We have made an assessment of how much of that individual's role is dedicated to health promotion to arrive at the figure provided.	
Community Dietitian	Auckland DHB employs a community dietitian and we estimate that a part of this role is utilised on health promotion nutrition initiatives.	\$38,000
Raising Healthy Kids	Auckland DHB extended access to parenting and healthy lifestyle interventions for families with obese children identified through the B4 School Check (a free health and development check for 4-year-olds). The aim of this programme is for those referred families to have an increase in physical activities, better nutrition habits and maintain or decrease their BMI. An amount of \$303,000 was allocated to this programme but it is not easy to estimate how much is utilised for nutrition promotion.	Not available

2018-19

Health Promotion Initiative	Comment	Expenditure
Enua Ola – Pacific Church Programme	35 churches in Waitematā DHB are funded a total of \$180,854 for nutrition, physical activity and stop smoking promotion initiatives. We estimate that approximately 40% of this funding is directed towards nutrition.	\$72,341
Healthy Village Action Zone (HVAZ) – Pacific Church Programme	44 churches in Auckland DHB are funded a total of \$228,035 for nutrition, physical activity and stop smoking promotion initiatives. We estimate that approximately 40% of this funding is used on nutrition.	\$91,214
ARPHS – Public Health Unit	Healthy Auckland Together (HAT) programme: the figure provided is an estimate of the expenditure on nutrition.	\$ 416,691 (for metro-Auckland region)
ARPHS – Public Health Unit	The Wai Auckland Programme (part of the HAT work programme) promotes tap water as the drink of choice for Auckland communities, seeking to displace sugar-sweetened beverages and other packaged drinks and hence improve population nutrition.	\$150,000
Enhanced School-Based Health services -ESBHS	See description above.	Not available
Health Promoting Schools	See description above.	Not available
Nutrition FTE	See description above.	\$11,606

Community Dietitian	See description above.	\$43,000
Raising Healthy Kids	See description above.	Not available

2019-20

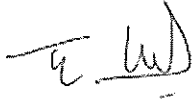
Health Promotion Initiative	Comment	Expenditure
Enua Ola – Pacific Church Programme	See description above.	\$72,341
Healthy Village Action Zone (HVAZ) – Pacific Church Programme	See description above.	\$91,214
ARPHS – Public Health Unit	The portion of expenditure on nutrition has been estimated for the HAT programme (for the metro-Auckland region).	\$ 508,040
Enhanced School-Based Health services -ESBHS	See description above.	Not available
Health Promoting Schools	See description above.	Not available
Nutrition FTE	See description above.	\$11,946
Community Dietitian	Auckland DHB employs a community dietitian. We estimate that part of this role is utilised on health promotion nutrition initiatives.	\$51,000
Oral health/healthy weight messages for consumers	As part of Pre-school Oral Health Strategy, Waitematā DHB worked with Auckland Regional Dental Service (ARDS) and regional partners to develop oral health and healthy weight messages. Five key messages were developed in 2019. These messages will be distributed as fridge magnets through Well Child Tamariki Ora providers in 2020.	\$7,000
Raising Healthy Kids	See description above.	Not available
SMILE campaign	The SMILE campaign is a health promotion initiative paid for by Auckland DHB. We estimate approximately 20% of the total budget of \$17,813.90 has been allocated to the promotion of nutrition. The five key messages of the campaign are: Smoke and Alcohol Free Mental Wellbeing Matters Immunise Lie on your side Eat Healthy.	\$3562.78

I trust that this information is helpful.

Auckland and Waitematā DHBs support 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 websites 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 black ink, appearing to read 'T. Wood', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Tim Wood
Acting Director Funding
Auckland & Waitematā District Health Boards