



2 September 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Colonoscopy rates for Māori

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 22 August seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

The Society is interested in obtaining data regarding the percentages of Māori who have had colonoscopies given that Māori are likely to be diagnosed later with more advanced colorectal cancers. It would be greatly appreciated if your IT or data analysis team at the District Health Board could provide the Society with data on the percentages of Māori who have had colonoscopy in the past year (or financial year if that is easier to work out), as compared with the percentage of Māori in the local population.

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

- In the last financial year, July 2018 to June 2019, Waitematā DHB performed colonoscopies on 5,820 patients, the vast majority (96%) of whom were aged 30 years+, especially relating to potential colorectal cancer as you have specifically mentioned in your request.
- The NZ Department of Statistics, as recognised in data used by the Ministry of Health, has identified Waitematā DHB's total 30+ population as being 373,160 in the financial year July 2018 to June 2019 (FY19). This compares with the reported Māori 30+ population of 24,820 or 6.65%.
- The total colonoscopies completed by Waitematā DHB in FY19 relating to patients 30+ was 5,593, of which 303 patients presented as Māori. This is a percentage of 5.42%.
- If considering all ages, the total Waitematā DHB population is reported as 626,990 in FY19, of which 61,990 are recorded as being Māori, representing 9.98% – and total colonoscopies being 5,820, with 322 patients presenting as Māori, representing 5.53%.

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 our 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