



Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
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6 May 2021

[Redacted]
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Dear [Redacted]

Re: OIA request – Dog-related injuries in children

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 19 April 2021 seeking information about dog-related injuries in children from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

You requested the following information:

1. **How many children aged 0-14 have presented to hospital with a dog-related injury in the last year?**
2. **How many of those children required a procedure (e.g. sutures), or admission?**
3. **What were the ethnic and age demographics of those children?**

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

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

1. **How many children aged 0-14 have presented to hospital with a dog-related injury in the last year?**

Table 1: Dog-related injuries in children aged 0-14 from 1 April 2020 to 1 April 2021

	Female	Male	Total
Dog-related injuries	16	13	29

2. **How many of those children required a procedure (e.g. sutures), or admission?**

There were no admissions to Waitematā DHB for any children in this timeframe. Eight had a wound sutured.

3. What were the ethnic and age demographics of those children?

We have banded the figures provided in age groups from 0-7 years old and 8-14 years old due to the very low numbers for some specific ages and ethnicities and the potential of the individuals to be identified if the exact numbers are provided.

We have considered whether the public interest in making the exact numbers available outweighs the need to protect the privacy of the individual patients but have concluded that it does not. We are withholding this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Table 2: Dog-related injuries in children aged 0-14 by age band and ethnicity from 1 April 2020 to 1 April 2021

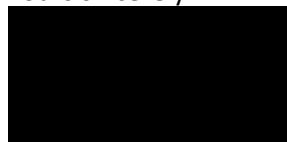
Ethnicity	0-7 yrs	8-14 yrs	Total
European	6	4	10
Maori	4	6	10
Pacific	-	4	4
Asian and Other	5	-	5
All ethnicities			29

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports 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 website 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



**Executive Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board**