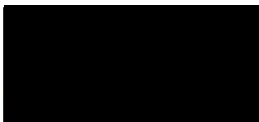




25 February 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Number of people referred for gender reassignment therapy**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act received 5 February 2020 seeking information about the number of people referred for gender reassignment therapy from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

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

Gender affirming care across metro Auckland is delivered by two services:

- Auckland Sexual Health regional services (for adults) is provided by Auckland DHB
- The Centre for Youth Health (for young people aged 12-24 years) is provided by Counties Manukau Health.

Both services offer clinics across metro Auckland to the populations of Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

The information you are requesting sits with these two services. However, there are some limitations in the coding systems for patients' medical records that would require a significant manual audit of individual files to answer some of your queries.

We have considered whether charging for the time or extending the timeframe would assist us in providing the information and have concluded it would not.

However, we can provide information that is accessible through electronic coding, service reporting or information prepared in response to other Official Information Act requests.

Consequently, the information provided below has some limitations, which are noted alongside the relevant data. Some data may not be available for one service or DHB but is available for another, which is noted in our responses where applicable.

We also note that your query is specific to referrals for hormone therapy. The available data is based on total patients accessing gender affirming care. Therefore, there may be numbers included for people who have been referred for gender affirming care but are not receiving hormone therapy. This is most notable for the Centre for Youth Health, where it is common for patients to be solely on hormone blockers but not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

General information about the services available to transgender people presenting for endocrine services at Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs is available at: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/sexual-health/hauora-tahine-pathways-to-transgender-healthcare/>

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

**1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year in 2018 and 2019?**

These numbers represent how many people have accessed services for the purpose of receiving gender affirming medical care at either the youth or adult service, which may include hormone therapy. We note these numbers may underestimate the true number of people receiving hormone therapy, as some referrals are received by other services. These other referrals are not coded electronically.

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Waitematā DHB</b>	254	331

**2. How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**

No referrals are made for hormone therapy to DHBs outside of Waitematā, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs.

**3. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**

The numbers below are inclusive of all people referred to, and seen by, a sexual health service. It includes those who have been referred for gender exploration but have not received hormone therapy.

Referrals received through the Centre for Youth Health for patients younger than 12 years are coded as, "Under 12". Older patients over 20 years of age are coded as, "Over 20".

A further breakdown of these age bands is not possible without an extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

**Breakdown of ages of people seen by a sexual health service:**

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Waitematā DHB</b>	<b>Min. age</b>	17	12
	<b>Max. age</b>	71	71
	<b>Median age</b>	24	27

**4. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

This service is run on an outpatient basis and is not coded electronically for this purpose. The information has been compiled on a limited basis, as previously described, for the youth service only.

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Waitematā DHB</b>	<b>Male to female</b>	46	54
	<b>Female to male</b>	112	120
	<b>Non binary</b>	17	19

While acknowledging we are unable to provide information in response to all elements of your request because this information is not readily available, we trust this information is helpful.

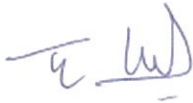
You have the right to seek an independent review of any of the decisions taken in providing this response by contacting the Office of the Ombudsman via [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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 them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Wood', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Tim Wood**  
**Acting Director Funding**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**