

02 November 2018

Re Official Information Request for people referred to DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 4 October, 2018, seeking the following information:

- 1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?**
- 2. How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**
- 3. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**
- 4. How many were n**

To answer these questions, information from the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services is accessed. There are some limitations in the patient medical files coding systems, which would necessitate a significant manual audit of patient files to answer some of your queries.

We are providing information that is reasonably accessible either from electronic coding, service reporting, or information prepared in response to other Official Information Act requests. Consequently, the information provided below has some limitations, which is noted alongside the relevant data. Some data may not be available for one service or DHB, where it is available for another.

We also note that your query is specific to referral for hormone therapy. Data available is based on total patients referred for gender affirming care. Therefore, there may be included in each data point below a cohort who have been referred for gender affirming care, but are not receiving hormone therapy. This is most notable for the Centre for Youth Health service, where it is common for patients to be solely on hormone blockers but not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

We are not able to provide the additional data you request back to 2006 due to the manually intensive nature of reviewing patient files and lack of electronic flags to indicate which files should be reviewed. We note recording and reporting of patient information has improved with the

development of gender affirming healthcare services at Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB.

Auckland DHB therefore refuses your request in part under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act relating to substantial collusion or research.

General information about the services available to transgender people presenting for endocrine services at Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB is available at:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/sexual-health/hauora-tahine-pathways-to-transgender-healthcare/>

1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy each year since 2006 until the present time?

The number of people referred to the DHB for gender affirming healthcare is able to be extracted from DHB databases across Metro Auckland DHBs from 1 July 2015.

DHB	Year			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Auckland DHB	Not available	29	69	97

The numbers in the table above represent first appointments by a person for the purpose of receiving gender affirming medical care – which may include hormone therapy – at either the youth or adult service. 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.

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

Gender affirming care across Metro Auckland is delivered by two services: Sexual Health deliver an Adult service, provided by Auckland DHB; and the Centre for Youth Health deliver a Youth service, provided by Counties Manukau DHB. Both services offer clinics across Metro Auckland to the populations of Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

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

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

The numbers in the table below are inclusive of all people referred to and seen by either the youth or adult service. It includes those who have been referred for gender exploration but have not received hormone therapy.

DHB		Year		
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Auckland DHB	Min age	17	Under 12 ¹	Under 12 ¹
	Max age	68	71	64
	Median age	26	24	23

¹ Referrals received where coded as Under 12. Further breakdown of ages under 12 is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

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 below has been compiled on a limited basis for the youth service only.

DHB	Year			
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Auckland DHB	Male to female	6	15	21
	Female to male	3	24	38
	Non binary	0	0	2

¹Data complete as of 1 May 2018. Not complete for the full 2017/18 year.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled under the Official Information Act section 28(3) to seek a review of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

