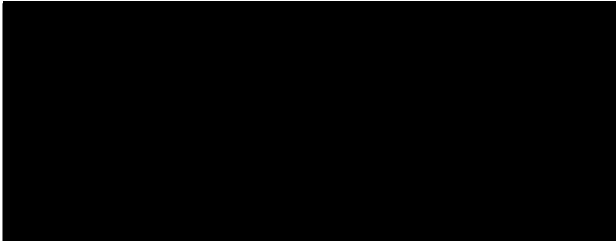


4 August 2020



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Re Official Information Request – Policy for Maori and Pasifika on elective surgery

I refer to your official information request dated 4 August 2020 requesting the following information:

I request under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:

1. Does the Board have a policy to prioritise Maori and/or Pasifika patients on elective surgery waiting lists?
2. If so, how long has this policy been in force and when is it scheduled to end?
3. If so, what is the rationale for this policy?
4. If so, is the policy based on the pressures of deferred surgery due to COVID-19?
5. If there is no such policy, why has the Board not followed the lead of the Capital and Coast District Health Board?
6. What is the current number of deferred elective surgeries due to the pressures of COVID-19?

Auckland DHB has commenced consideration of a 'business as usual' policy that will enable Māori and Pasifika patients to achieve equity in outcomes in respect to elective surgery. However, the recent cluster response to COVID-19 and the lockdown, has caused delays in concluding that policy as we have focused on the immediate impact that the pandemic has had on presentations and related procedures. This comment answers points 1 to 5 above.

In respect of your sixth query, from 14 August 2020 Auckland DHB started to note a procedure deferral reason of: 'C19Def-HHS' relating to our waitlist. On that date, there were approximately 133 patients to whom this reason was applied and who had not been rebooked. As at 15 June 2020 (closer to the date of your request), only 17 of the 133 were on the list at that point in time.

We note that Auckland DHB applies a practice of 'right size to capacity' i.e. if we do not have operating capacity, then people will not be booked, so deferrals are limited.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. 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