

15 October 2021

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Re: Official Information Act request – Documents or reports in response to letters sent to Ministerial offices regarding vaccination rollouts for Māori

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 20 September 2021 requesting the following information:

On 24th February 2021 the Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency forwarded three attachments to your office in an email which included:

A letter from myself as Chief Executive Officer of the Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency, secondly a full business case for vaccination rollouts to Maori, by Maori, for Maori. Also provided was a breakout business case targeting the Tamaki Makaurau region, given the fact that we administer the largest seaport and airport in the country and therefore were always likely to have breaches coming across the border in regard to Covid.

We did not receive the courtesy of a response and as you are all aware, poor decisions were made in exclusion of us.

We are now scrambling and still being denied access to Maori mega data so we can target our resources in a far better way than going out on fishing expeditions without any information as to whether this is an efficient deployment of our limited assets.

On this basis I write under the Official Information Act 1982 seeking the following:

- 1) Please provide any reports, notes, minutes or texts that were created as a consequence of the receipt of these three documents in all Ministerial offices, the Ministry of Health, in terms of the office of Dr Ashley Bloomfield and in the office of Mr John Whaanga. This request also applies to the offices of Dr Dale Bramley and Ailsa Clare.**
- 2) Why was this correspondence not replied to and what were the reasons provided to ignore the Whanau Ora Collective network in regard to vaccine rollouts targeting Maori communities.**
- 3) We are aware that the Associate Minister of Health, Peeni Henare, made an announcement in March 2021, that \$137 million out of \$1.2 billion dollars was to be targeted at Maori vaccine rollout strategies. Why was this fund not deployed to the Whanau Ora Network.**
- 4) Who ultimately got the \$137 million tagged by Minister Henare and on what and where did they deploy these funds**

5) What happened to the full \$1 billion dollars that was voted to the general population. How was that fund distributed, to whom, on what and where was that fund applied.

Response

We note that you submitted the same request to Waitemata DHB and the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health will respond to questions 1 to 5 of your request.

In response to question 1 of your request, relating to the CEO office at Auckland DHB, we are able to provide the following information.

Your email was received 24 February 2021. It was addressed to the Minister of Health and I was copied as Auckland DHB Chief Executive. I noted it as the courtesy copy it was and left it with the office of the Minister to address.

There have been no reports, notes, minutes or texts created as a direct consequence of the receipt of the three documents received on 24 February 2021.

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 sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

