



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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8 February 2019

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9269

We refer to your email dated 14 January 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding:

In late 2017 in regards the physiotherapist shortage the DHB said:

West Coast and Canterbury DHBs executive Director Allied Health Stella Ward said the West Coast DHB should have about 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.

Can you tell me please?

- **How many are there now?**

There are currently 7 registered physiotherapists (6.443FTE), with another registered physiotherapist starting in February (1FTE), one in April (1FTE) and 1FTE vacancy with interviews scheduled. When all positions are filled, there will be 10 physiotherapists (9.443FTE). Two of the current team were new graduates in 2018.

- **How many were new graduates in 2016?**

The West Coast DHB did not employ a new graduate in 2016, as our 2015 new graduates remained on staff, leaving during the second half of 2017.

- **How many are new graduates now?**

This year we have three new graduate positions; one new graduate is already in post, one starts in April and we are currently interviewing for the third position. Senior, experienced physiotherapists will orientate and supervise these new graduates.

- **Who will supervise the new graduates with the upcoming changes to management?**

Under the proposed changes, professional supervision of our new graduates would remain unchanged, with senior experienced physiotherapy staff providing the orientation and supervision. The proposed changes provide for some additional supports for our new graduates, as well as our wider Allied Health, Scientific and Technical workforce. One proposed change is a new professional development facilitator role who would support the ongoing training and development of all our Allied Health, Scientific and Technical workforce, working with the Physiotherapy Professional Advisor ensuring the appropriate supports are available for the new graduates.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamilton', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Greg Hamilton
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support