



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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1 October 2019

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9345

I refer to your email dated 10 September 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

- 1. How many West Coast patients are able to claim travel expenses to collect methadone in the past year to June?**
- 2. What was the smallest claim?**
- 3. What was the largest?**
- 4. There is a pharmacy service to outlying towns on the Coast, but I assume they don't do methadone.**

Response:

West Coast DHB has not paid travel expenses to people to collect community-dispensed medications in the past year to 30 June 2019.

Methadone dispensing is complicated for people who live in more rural areas and outlying towns where there are no pharmacies and with limited or no capacity to store methadone drugs. Dispensing to people who live in outlying towns is therefore dependent upon the specific circumstances in each individual client's case, and upon available local clinical capacities to deliver the medication.

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

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support