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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10437 & WCDHB 9479

I refer to your email dated 17 September 2020 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 1 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB. Specifically question 1 and 2 regarding Fit testing problems, as below:

- 1. What was the percentage of workers across the whole of the DHB who had received fit testing in the previous twelve months?**
- 2. What are the actual numbers for each DHB?**

The Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB conduct Respiratory fit testing for clinical and non-clinical staff working in areas where N95 or similar respiratory protection is to be worn in line with Ministry of Health Direction, WorkSafe NZ guidance and the Australia New Zealand Standard, AS/NZ 1715:2009, Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment.

Staff members carrying out aerosol generating, and high-risk procedures, have been assessed as most likely to require the use of N95 masks. This includes nurses, doctors, physios and technicians working in the Acute Medical Assessment Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, Perioperative Services, Ashburton, Greymouth and inpatient wards caring for COVID-19 positive patients.

Canterbury DHB

450 Canterbury DHB staff have attended a fit-testing session in the past twelve months. This represents 60% of the 800 staff who have been identified as priority for fit-testing.

West Coast DHB

15 West Coast DHB staff have attended a fit-testing session in the past twelve months. This represents 15% of the 100 staff who have been identified as priority for fit-testing.

Both DHB's continue to roll out the fit-testing programme, increasing both the number of people able to perform fit-testing as well the number of people fit-tested.

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 Canterbury DHB website and West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R La Sale', is positioned above the printed name.

Ralph La Sale
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support