



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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9 August 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9570

I refer to your email dated 17 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year since 2006 until the present time?**
- 2. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/oldest/median age)?**
- 3. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**
- 4. How many children were referred for puberty blocking drugs in each calendar year since 2006?**
- 5. How many people had psychological treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?**
- 6. How many people had double mastectomies (top surgery) as treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?**
- 7. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years?**

Response.

West Coast DHB does not directly fund nor provide locally dedicated services as listed above specifically for people seeking gender dysphoria related care and gender reassignment. These services for people from the West Coast are principally provided by Canterbury DHB.

West Coast DHB therefore does not hold a central record of the information you have requested; the only such information that may be recorded being that held in individual clinical case notes and patient records as may be pertinent to individual patient concerned. We therefore decline to provide such information that may or may not be held if we undertook manual research of each of individual patients' case notes under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act i.e. "... that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research" and additionally decline the request for information regarding West Coast residents treated for gender dysphoria and gender reassignment under Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. "... that the information requested is not held" by the West Coast DHB.

People seeking gender-affirming services would be initially referred through to the endocrinology services of Canterbury DHB as the lead regional provider of highly specialised tertiary care, after first

undertaking psychiatric or psychological assessments by clinicians with appropriate experience in gender dysphoria. If a patient is accepted for hormone treatment, the Canterbury DHB endocrinologist will direct treatment with appropriate interim monitoring by the patient's own general practice.

Thereafter, patients would follow the Canterbury DHB clinical pathways and further due process in accessing gender-affirming health care if found to be suitable and eligible for treatment, and for possible ultimate placement on the national waiting list for genital reassignment surgery with funding from the Ministry of Health's Special High cost Treatment Pool.

As part of the patient pathway and process to accessing publicly funded health care for gender-affirming health care, Canterbury DHB follows the guidelines set down by the Ministry of Health in relation to the phases of gender transition after a diagnosis of Gender Identify Disorder has been made.

Information on gender dysphoria and gender reassignment surgery is provided on the Ministry of Health website and can be found through following the various related links at:

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/transgender-new-zealanders/health-care-transgender-new-zealanders>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/delivering-health-services-transgender-people>

West Coast DHB does not currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this health care.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. 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 West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Tracey Maisey
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Canterbury and West Coast DHBs