



West Coast District Health Board

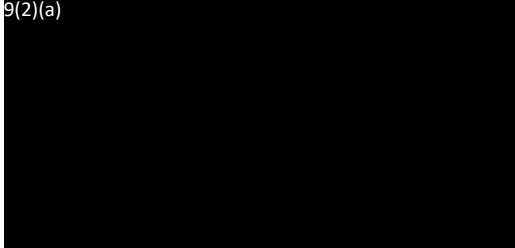
Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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9 August 2021

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9584

I refer to your email dated 2 August 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding policies and practices, if any, regarding admitting children in care to hospital. Clarified as, by 'care' I mean state care of any kind. Specifically:

- 1. What is the DHB's policy regarding children in care being**
 - a. admitted to hospital and**
 - b. admitted to hospital in lieu of a care placement?**

West Coast DHB does not have a specific policy regarding a child in care being admitted to Hospital.

- 2. Are children in care admitted to hospitals if placements cannot be found?**

No - Children are admitted to hospital if they have a medical or injury concern requiring assessment and treatment. If there are no medical concerns a child in the care of Oranga Tamariki would not be admitted to hospital.

- 3. How many children in care are currently in hospital in the DHB?**
- 4. Are there any children in care currently in hospital in the DHB?**
- 5. Please provide figures for the past 5 years showing the number of children in care admitted to a DHB hospital, length of stay and reason for being admitted to hospital.**

We do not hold the requested information in an easily retrievable electronic system. This information is held within individual patient clinical files and it would entail a substantial amount of time and resource to provide the information requested. We are therefore declining a response to these questions pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

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
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support