



## **Transgender care pathways project - FAQs**

### **What do we mean by transgender?**

The project team acknowledges that gender identity and its expression vary greatly. We also note that transgender people come from every sector of New Zealand society and the visibility of that breadth of diversity is the most effective way of challenging stereotypes. We acknowledge the diversity of identities: trans, transsexual, genderqueer, whakawahine, tangata ira tane, fa'afafine, fakaleiti, vakasalewalewa, mahu, palopa, among them. Transgender will be used when there is a need for a generic word and it is used in the spirit of inclusion and the need for collaboration and consultation.

### **What is happening?**

The northern region DHBs are in a conversation with transgender communities and healthcare professionals to develop a better understanding of health service need for people in the region's transgender communities.

### **Why are the DHBs doing this?**

There is general acknowledgement that transgender people have not had a joined up health service.<sup>1</sup> We want to create clear pathways for health by putting forward a plan based on collaboration across the region and through the levels of community, specialist and hospital health services.

### **Who is going to be working on this project?**

The project group includes health planners, transgender consumer representatives including Māori and Pacific community representatives, and clinicians who work in the areas of primary care, child and youth health, sexual health, mental health, surgery and endocrinology.

### **How is this going to be progressed?**

The advisory group will listen, consult and seek advice and come up with a proposal for future health services that will be considered by the Boards of the Auckland region DHBs.

### **How are transgender communities involved in this process?**

Representatives from transgender communities have been providing a diverse and wide range of perspectives at all levels of the process to develop a proposal.

Representation on the project advisory group comes from Māori and Pacific, youth, and over 25 age group, male to female and female to male transgender representatives.

The advisory group is working to develop draft service specifications. To bring in the voice of the wider transgender communities there will be community forums to discuss the early thinking in July 2015.

Register your interest in these forums by emailing [engagement@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:engagement@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

The project team acknowledges respects and protects the confidentiality of members of the transgender communities who wish to engage in this process.

### **What happens then?**

After consideration, the Boards will decide whether to adopt the proposal. If the Boards adopt the proposal, the proposal will receive funding as part of the Auckland region's health strategy.

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<sup>i</sup> The Human Rights Commission's Inquiry into the Discrimination Experienced by Transgender People identified five areas of attention, including: Improving access to health services, including gender reassignment services. The submission to the United Nation's Universal Periodic Review process from the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex (SOGII) UPR Coalition 2013 notes that access to health service is an important economic, social and cultural right outlined in United Nations treaties and instrument that New Zealand is a party to.