

2 March 2020



**Re: Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act received 5 February 2020 seeking the following of Auckland District Health Board (DHB):

1. **How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year in 2018 and 2019?**
2. **How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**
3. **What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**
4. **How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

To answer these questions, information from the Centre for Youth Health and Auckland Regional Sexual Health outpatient services is accessed. There are some limitations in the patient medical files coding systems, which would necessitate a significant manual audit of patient files to answer some of your queries.

We are providing information that is reasonably accessible either from electronic coding, service reporting, or information prepared in response to other Official Information Act requests. Consequently, the information provided below has some limitations, which is noted alongside the relevant data. Some data may not be available for one service or DHB, where it is available for another. Where applicable, this has also been noted below.

We also note that your query is specific to referral for hormone therapy. Data available is based on total patients accessing gender affirming care. Therefore, there may be included in each data point below a cohort who have been referred for gender affirming care, but are not receiving hormone therapy. This is most notable for the Centre for Youth Health service, where it is common for

patients to be solely on hormone blockers but are not receiving gender reassignment hormone therapy.

We are not able to provide the additional data you request, due to the manually intensive nature of reviewing patient files and lack of electronic flags to indicate which files should be reviewed. Auckland DHB follows the Northern Region Guidelines for gender-affirming healthcare for Gender Diverse and Transgender Children, young People and adults. The details can be found through the following link:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/sexual-health/hauora-tahine-pathways-to-transgender-healthcare/>

**1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year in 2018 and 2019?**

These numbers represent how many people have accessed services for the purpose of receiving gender affirming medical care – which may include hormone therapy – at either the youth or adult service. We note these numbers may underestimate the true number of people receiving hormone therapy, as some referrals are received by other services. These other referrals are not coded electronically.

	2018	2019
Auckland DHB	278	346

**2. How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**

Gender affirming care across Metro Auckland is delivered by two services: Sexual Health delivers an Adult service, provided by Auckland DHB; Centre for Youth Health deliver a Youth service, provided by Counties Manukau DHB. Both services offer clinics across Metro Auckland to the populations of Waitemātā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

No referrals to DHBs outside of Waitemātā, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs are made for hormone therapy.

**3. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/ oldest/ median age)?**

The numbers below are inclusive of all people referred to and seen by Sexual Health service. It includes those who have been referred for gender exploration but have not received hormone therapy.

		2018	2019
Auckland DHB	Min age	19	12
	Max age	65	66
	Median age	27	28

Referrals received under Centre for Youth Health for patients younger than 12 years are coded as Under 12 and older patients over 20 years of age are coded as Over 20. Further breakdown of ages Under 12 and Over 20 is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

**4. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

This service is run on an outpatient basis and is not coded electronically for this purpose. The information has been compiled on limited bases for the youth service only.

		2018	2019
Auckland DHB	Male to female	61	47
	Female to male	111	95
	Non binary	9	28

Further collation of this data is not possible without extensive manual review of outpatient medical files.

Whilst acknowledging we are unable to provide information in response to all elements of your request because this information is not readily available, I hope this information is sufficient in response to your request.

Auckland DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive

