

25 May 2021

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**Re: Official Information Act request – Dog bite injuries**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 17 April 2021 requesting the following information:

**My questions are:**

- 1. How many children aged 0-14 have presented to hospital with a dog-related injury in the last year?**

19 children were recorded as having presented to Starship with a dog bite injury in the 12 months from 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020. This includes children who presented to the Children's Emergency Department for a period of greater than 3 hours, those that had an episode of care in the Starship Day Stay Unit and those that were admitted to a ward.

Children who presented to the Children's Emergency Department for a period of less than 3 hours are not recorded with specific information about the nature of the injury, they are recorded as animal bite only. This data is not included in the response.

- 2. How many of those children required a procedure (e.g. sutures), or admission?**

All 19 of the children described above were classed as admitted requiring some form of clinical intervention. The detail of this is not able to be provided but may include sutures, antibiotic treatment and / or a wash out procedure.

- 3. What were the ethnic and age demographics of those children?**

**Ethnicity**

Maori – 4

Pacific – 8

Other – 7

**Age ranges**

Under 5 years – 6

5–9 years – 6

10–14 years – 7

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 of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)**