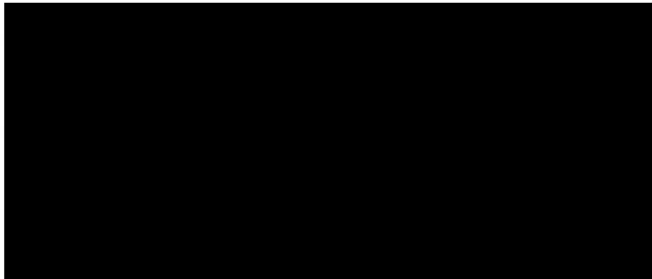


12 May 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Need for midwives in Aotearoa

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 14 April 2021, requesting the following information:

1. How many midwives are currently employed by the DHB?

As at 26th April 2021, 209 Midwives are employed by Auckland DHB. (Excluding employees on long term leave without pay or on parental leave)

2. Both those that are employed to provide 24-hour, rostered shift cover in a maternity facility, and those that are employed to a continuity of care please.

This is included above

3. How many current vacancies are there for midwives at the DHB?

Currently Auckland DHB has 13.2 full time equivalent midwifery vacancies. We also have 9 midwifery positions temporarily filled by registered nurses.

4. Is there an adequate amount of self-employed LMC's (Lead Maternity Carers) within your district?

This is a request for an opinion about a group of midwives who are not employed by Auckland DHB, not a request for information.

5. Is there a growing need for more midwives within the DHB?

Yes, there is has been a small growth in need for midwives in Auckland DHB over the last 3 years because of an increase in acuity and complexity of patients, despite a slight decrease in birth numbers.

6. Any other general comments surrounding midwifery that might be helpful to us!

Midwives are the workforce specifically educated and trained to provide care within the maternity service.

A midwifery workforce action plan was endorsed by the Board and Leadership team in April 2017 and informed by our staff, the NZ College of Midwives, the Midwifery Employment Representation and Advisory Service (MERAS) and the NZ Nurses Organisation (NZNO). Formal monthly meetings between Auckland DHB, the College, MERAS and NZNO to jointly agree priorities and monitor progress against the strategy began in May 2017 and this group has overseen good progress.

We continue to work with our union partners and midwifery organisations to further support our staff and help grow the midwifery profession in New Zealand.

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 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)