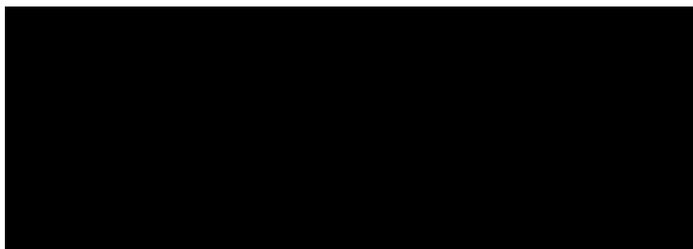


11 October 2021



**Re Official Information Request for Transgender Care**

I refer to your official information request dated 25 September 2021 for the following information:

- 1) Please advise (Y/N) whether the following gender-affirming healthcare treatments are provided by your DHB for transgender patients:**
  - 1.1. Voice therapy/vocal training.
  - 1.2. Permanent facial hair removal by electrolysis, IPL, or laser treatment.
  - 1.3. Chest binding prosthetics (binders).
  - 1.4. Chest reconstruction (double mastectomy & contouring for transgender men).
  - 1.5. Breast augmentation for transgender women.
  - 1.6. Fertility preservation for sperm.
  - 1.7. Fertility preservation for eggs.
  - 1.8. GnRH Puberty suppressants (puberty blockade).
  - 1.9. Readiness assessment for hormone therapy.
  - 1.10. Hormone therapy (estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone treatment).
  - 1.11. Hysterectomy and oophorectomy.
  - 1.12. Orchidectomy/orchiectomy.
  - 1.13. DHB public pathway to care
  
- 2) Are gender-affirming healthcare services under your DHB based on the Guidelines for Gender Affirming Healthcare for Gender Diverse and Transgender Children, Young People and Adults in Aotearoa New Zealand (2018)? If not, which guidelines are they based on, if any?**
  
- 3) Are there transgender training programmes routinely provided or promoted through your DHB? If so, which training programmes or materials are used, and which organisations provide these? If not, do you have mechanisms for providing or promoting such training, and is there a date by which you plan to provide these?**

## Response

The information you have requested is enclosed below in a response on behalf of the Auckland Regional Metro DHBs.

**1) Please advise (Y/N) whether the following gender-affirming healthcare treatments are provided by your DHB for transgender patients:**

Treatment	Yes	No	Notes
Voice therapy/vocal training.	Y		
Permanent facial hair removal by electrolysis, IPL, or laser treatment.		N	
Chest binding prosthetics (binders).		N	We do have a pool of donated binders that we give out via the regional plastic surgical service
Chest reconstruction (double mastectomy & contouring for transgender men).	Y		
Breast augmentation for transgender women.		N	Breast augmentation is not normally provided, but where there has been no response to oestrogen this has occurred in a very small number of cases.
Fertility preservation for sperm.	Y		
Fertility preservation for eggs.	Y		Only if removal of ovaries and uterus is planned.
GnRH Puberty suppressants (puberty blockade).	Y		
Readiness assessment for hormone therapy.	Y		
Hormone therapy (estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone treatment).	Y		
Hysterectomy and oophorectomy.	Y		
Orchidectomy/orchiectomy.	Y		
DHB public pathway to care	Y		Note the public information on Healthpoint Hauora Tahine*

\*Healthpoint Hauora Tahine:

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

- 2) **Are gender-affirming healthcare services under your DHB based on the Guidelines for Gender Affirming Healthcare for Gender Diverse and Transgender Children, Young People and Adults in Aotearoa New Zealand (2018)? If not, which guidelines are they based on, if any?**

Yes

- 3) **Are there transgender training programmes routinely provided or promoted through your DHB? If so, which training programmes or materials are used, and which organisations provide these? If not, do you have mechanisms for providing or promoting such training, and is there a date by which you plan to provide these?**

Yes. Routine provision of a compulsory rainbow e-learning module provided by Rainbow Tick. Rainbow Competency Workshops are provided on a regular basis. A Ko Awatea module is available on caring for transgender and non-binary patients. Haora Tahine Services provide educational talks to a range of hospital teams on request.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. 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**