



**Re: Official Information Act request – Stuttering Data**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received 7 April requesting the following information:

We are wanting to better understand the range of services provided by various DHBs throughout Aotearoa for people who stutter.

**Would you please advise:**

**whether you do provide services for people who stutter?**

**If you do provide services for people who stutter, would you please advise:**

**how many people who stutter that you have worked with in the last year including a breakdown of their ages and ethnicities**

**the type of services that you provided, e.g. individual speech therapy, group programmes**

**the number of sessions of individual speech therapy you provided in the last year**

**the number of any other programmes etc that you offered and the number of participants in these programmes.**

**Response**

Stuttering is not covered in our core health service provision at Auckland DHB, with the exception of services for clients with acquired dysfluency following stroke/brain injury.

Referrals for stuttering are infrequent and we do not have the critical mass of patients to enable our clinicians to maintain expertise in this area. This means that our approach to referrals is to inform people of the services START (Stuttering Treatment and Research Trust) provides. START is, we believe, better placed to provide a comprehensive service for people who stutter.

If people were to decline START, or if they had concurrent Speech Language Therapy needs, they would remain on our caseloads.

We do not provide any groups or programmes, and in the last year have not received any referrals for either pure or acquired dysfluency.

Because we do not provide services for people who stutter in any significant volumes, we do not collect data and are thus refusing to provide the information requested citing s18(f) Official Information Act – the information sought does not exist.

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 at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ailsa Claire".

Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**