

26 October 2021



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Nurses’ online training

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received as a partial transfer from the Ministry of Health on 22 September seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about ICU nurses’ online training.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

On 18 October, we contacted you to advise that we were extending the timeframe on your request until 27 October, as the staff tasked with providing a response were concentrating on measures to manage the current COVID-19 Delta outbreak in the region.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

1. A breakdown by DHB showing how many nurses had completed the online ICU training module for nurses by August 17 and also now (most up-to-date figures available).

Waitematā DHB’s ICU Nurse Educator was part of the national group of educators that helped develop the online module, which was released to the DHBs on 26 August 2021.

To date, 149 registered nurses have completed the new online module, with numbers growing daily. Our interdisciplinary COVID-19 learning programme ensures all staff are prepared, appropriate to their role, whether they are working in COVID-19 wards or an ICU setting.

The training is available for nurses that have completed the BASIC (Basic Assessment and Support in Intensive Care) COVID-19 programme. The original BASIC COVID-19 modules are

available to all staff. In addition, the expanded Advanced COVID-19 Care modules must be completed by staff that are working in the COVID-19 specialty areas. This includes the new Ministry of Health online module.

As new nurses are recruited, they are assisted to rapidly complete these required learning modules.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Executive Director Finance, People and Planning
Waitematā District Health Board**