



26 August 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Elective Services Māori/Pasifika policy

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 4 August 2020 seeking information about the Elective Services Māori/Pasifika policy from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

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

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

You requested the following information:

1. Does the Board have a policy to prioritise Māori and/or Pasifika patients on elective surgery waiting lists?

Waitematā DHB does not currently have a policy to prioritise Māori and/or Pasifika patients on our elective surgery waitlists.

2. If so, how long has this policy been in force and when is it scheduled to end?

As above, not applicable.

3. If so, what is the rationale for this policy?

As above, not applicable.

4. If so, is the policy based on the pressures of deferred surgery due to COVID-19?

As above, not applicable.

5. If there is no such policy, why has the Board not followed the lead of the Capital and Coast District Health Board?

We are aware of Capital and Coast DHB's introduction of this policy as well as other DHBs moving towards introducing a policy that aligns with this strategy. Waitematā DHB is currently reviewing the most appropriate way to introduce a similar policy within our systems and processes.

6. What is the current number of deferred elective surgeries due to the pressures of COVID-19?

On 17 August, we contacted you to clarify the information you were seeking and you confirmed that your request was for:

What was the number of re-scheduled elective surgeries due to the pressures of COVID-19 in the previous Level 4/Level 3 lockdown (23 March to 13 May)?

Waitematā DHB's patient management system does not allow us to capture specific information on the number of rescheduled procedures for elective planned care due to the pressures of COVID-19 as planned procedures are rescheduled due to a variety of reasons.

However, our Hospital and Advisory Committee (HAC) reports, available online, provide data on service delivery for elective volumes:

April volumes:

<http://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz/assets/Documents/committees/2020/Open-HAC-June-2020.pdf>

May volumes:

<https://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz/assets/Documents/board/2020/HAC-July-2020-Open-Agenda.pdf>

Please note any elective surgical cases that are rescheduled are re-booked within a maximum six-week timeframe from the date of reschedule.

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



Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board