



7 July 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Green Prescription referrals and completions

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 21 June seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about Green Prescription (GRx) referrals and completion rates.

You requested the following information:

I would appreciate it if you can send me statistics relating to the Green Prescription program from its inception to the latest numbers available. Annual figures will be fine. I am looking for the numbers of prescriptions received and completion rates.

On 21 June, we contacted you to advise that we could only supply data from July 2012 onwards. This is because Green Prescription was started by Sport NZ and later transferred to the Ministry of Health and devolved to district health boards in 2012.

On 22 June, you contacted us to confirm that you were happy for us to provide information from 2012 onwards.

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

Annual statistics relating to the Green Prescription program from 2012 to the latest numbers available. The numbers of prescriptions received and completion rates.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about Green Prescription. A Green Prescription (GRx) is a health professional's written advice to a patient to be physically active, as part of the patient's health management.

The GRx programme was developed by Sport NZ in 1998 and was available nationwide to anyone aged 18 years and over. The programme was then transferred to the Ministry of Health (MOH) to manage in 2009. The MoH devolved the programme to DHBs in 2012, although it retained nationally consistent service specifications and reporting requirements until 2017.

Therefore, as mentioned above, Waitematā DHB only has programme data from 2012 onwards. The MoH reporting template that the DHB used from 2012 until 2017 recorded the number of referrals but did not record the number of completions/graduations. The number of referrals received during

this period does not reflect the number of people that participated in the programme as some referred people are unable to be contacted or have declined the programme.

Table 1, GRx referral data from July 2012 to June 2017 for Waitematā DHB

Financial year	Number of referrals
2012-13	4179
2013-14	5675
2014-15	6511
2015-16	7206
2016-17	6357

In 2016-17, the reporting requirements were changed to reporting on engaged clients as this data is more meaningful than referrals received. We also included “graduations” as a reporting requirement (those who were independently active when they completed the programme).

Table 2, GRx engaged and graduate data from July 2017 to June 2021 for Waitematā DHB

Financial year	Number of engaged clients	Number independently active graduates
2017-18	3756	1448
2018-19	5401	1226
2019-20	4900	2071
2020-21	5077	2120

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



Director Funding
Waitematā District Health Board