

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022



### **Official Information Act Request for – Bed Availability**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, you requested the following information:

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**
- 2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?**
- 3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of aged residential care beds available?**
- 4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?**
- 5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?**
- 6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?**

#### **Counties Manukau Health Response:**

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**

Counties Manukau DHB does not contract for a set number of beds and has not reduced the number of beds available in aged residential care since March 2020.

Aged residential care providers may temporarily change the number of beds available for a number of reasons including facility refurbishment and temporary staff shortages.

- 2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?**

Number of beds in CMDHB contracted aged residential care facilities:  
2019-20 Q3: 2766

2021-22 Q1: 2732

**3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of age residential care beds available?**

The primary causes for aged care providers temporarily changing the physical bed numbers over this period of time include temporary closures due to asbestos remediation work, refurbishment, reconfiguration and temporary staff shortages.

**4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?**

**5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?**

No.

**6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?**

The numbers below include the physical bed capacity across acute adult wards at Middlemore Hospital and includes the following divisions, Medicine, Surgical Services, Adult Rehabilitation & Health of Older People and Women's Health. These bed numbers do not reflect resourced bed capacity or actual occupancy which can vary due to seasons and demands.

Variations in bed count data provided over time may be due to different counting methods, the timing of a bed census, and definitions of what constitutes a bed (e.g. include/exclude Day stay and Clinic Treatment chairs, Emergency Department trolley).

The below information includes, Medical Wards, Surgical Wards (including Post-Surgical Unit), ARHOP Wards, Women's Health Wards (including Gynaecology) and Cardiac Areas such as Coronary Care Unit and Step Down Unit.

Physical Beds March 2020 = 613

Physical Beds January 2022 = 668

The physical bed numbers now include the escalation beds for Winter in certain wards.

The increase of 55 beds from 2020 to 2022 is reflected as escalation beds in areas such as ARHOP (4), Medicine (28), Surgical (13). In late 2020, Women's Health added 10 Gynaecology beds.

I trust this information answers your request. 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 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 may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Peter Watson**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**