

Facilities: Food Services
Proactive Release: 11 March 2019

21st March 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 22 February 2019, on transfer from the Ministry of Health under section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information:

- **Cost for each health board to fee each standard patient, per day.**
- **Average number of daily meals produced each day.**
- **Copies of menus, if not on a rotation, then previous 4 week's worth.**

For context, Counties Manukau Health provides health services to the community of South Auckland in both community and hospital settings. Hospital services are delivered across two main sites, comprising nearly 1,000 beds, and also at five other satellite sites in South Auckland.

In addition to hospital ward patients, meals are also provided in the Emergency Department, Day Stay Units and Procedure Units. Counties Manukau Health Food Service is contracted to Compass Group (New Zealand) Ltd for Middlemore Hospital, Manukau Surgery Centre, Pukekohe, Franklin, Botany Maternity and Papakura.

Our responses to your questions are provided below:

- **Cost for each health board to fee each standard patient, per day.**

We believe this information is commercially sensitive, and that the release would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of our food services provider, which outweighs the public interest in providing exact costings. We have therefore decided to withhold the precise dollar amounts relating to the costs of meals - under Section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act.

The DHB is mindful of the public interest in the cost of hospital meals, and we have opted to advise that the average total cost for our inpatients is in the range of \$20-30 per day.

This is the meal cost for a patient on a standard diet, and is inclusive of morning and afternoon tea snacks, taking patient meal orders, preparation and service of meals, delivery of meals to the wards.

Also covered in this cost are other kitchen functions required to maintain a food service, such as dishwashing, keeping the kitchen clean, and maintaining the requirements of the food safety plan.

- **Average number of daily meals produced each day.**

The average numbers of meals for January 2019 were 2,586 per day, produced for consumption at Middlemore Hospital. The meals for other sites are produced on-site, depending on daily requirements.

Average number of meals per day varies throughout the year, and highest is during winter, when the hospital is busiest.

- **Copies of menus, if not on a rotation, then previous 4 weeks' worth.**

CMDHB operates a 2 weekly cycle inpatient menu. We have provided copies of the standard menu (**attached**). The menus are provided according to the National Meal and Nutrition Standards in the contract specification and the approved diet codes. The focus of Patient Food Service is to cater for patient nutritional requirements, religious and cultural requirements, as well as patient preferences ensuring patients receive a menu specific to their needs. There are over 58 different menu modifications available within our Food services, for medical, dietary and personal/religious preferences.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive