

Funder : NGO contract  
Proactive Release: 08 April 2020

19 March 2020

9(2)(a)

Email: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 12 May 2020, via transfer from the Ministry of Health under section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information:

**1. What will be the fiscal impact on the Crown and/ or DHBs of:**

- **Ceasing or reducing funding to the Laura Fergusson Trust and replacing services provided by the Trust through a different delivery channel?**

As context, Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care, and via contracted providers.

We provide regional and supra-regional specialist acute and rehabilitation services (for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services). There are also several specialist services provided for our community via other metro Auckland DHBs, including tertiary surgical/ medical services, some regional mental health and addiction services.

Our responses to each of your questions are below.

**What will be the fiscal impact on the Crown and/ or DHBs of:**

- **Ceasing or reducing funding to the Laura Fergusson Trust and replacing services provided by the Trust through a different delivery channel?**

In July 2018, Counties Manukau District Health Board established contractual arrangements with Laura Fergusson Trust to provide supplementary residential rehabilitation services.

These arrangements were intended to deliver services to eligible clients under the Long-term Support - Chronic Health Conditions (LTS-CHC) funding, and for people less than 65 years who were assessed as needing extended residential rehabilitation.

The intent of the contract is to provide a residential rehabilitation option for people aged under-65 years who are medically stable, and require 30-60 days residential multidisciplinary rehabilitation. The arrangements are to support an extended transition/ return to community living for some patients from a public hospital setting, using an intermediate period of rehabilitation in a residential setting. We also hold a similar contract for residential rehabilitation of people with acquired brain injury, with a similar NGO provider.

The use of these services arrangements (and funding of this for any individual) is assessed as part of an individual's support package. Funding is based on actual use of the services, rather than an ongoing fiscal commitment. Since the contracts inception, the service at Laura Fergusson Trust has only been used for one patient, from November 2018 –January 2019.

With the decision by the Laura Fergusson Trust to close their facility, the DHB will look to identify the best alternative options for any individuals who may need similar types of services in future. That may include ongoing/ extended use of DHB-run rehabilitation facilities, or other community NGO providers. The fiscal impact of other options may vary depending on each individual's identified disability-related need.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized circular flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**