

22nd March 2021

s9(2)(a)

Email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – Transgender Children and Young People

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 2nd March 2021, you requested the following information:

1. How many teenagers (up to and including 18 y/o) and children have sought treatment / advice from the Centre for Youth Health (CfYH) covering the metro-Auckland region because of issues relating to gender identity and being transgender
 2. How many of these young people have been diagnosed as being transgender (as explained by the Ministry of Health <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/transgender-new-zealanders/transgender-new-zealanders-children-and-young-people>)
 3. How many teenagers and children (up to and including 18 y/o) have been prescribed puberty blockers.
 4. How many teenagers and children (up to and including 18 y/o) have received gender affirming genital surgery
- Please provide the information for each of the past three years to June 2020

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.

The Kidz First Centre for Youth Health (CfYH) welcomes gender diverse and transgender young people to our service. We provide support for young people and whaanau/families around gender exploration and transition related healthcare across the whole Auckland Region.

Publicly available information on CM Health’s Centre for Youth Health service can be accessed via the HealthPoint website at the following links, and may answer many of your questions:

- <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/paediatrics/kidz-first-centre-for-youth-health/>

1. How many teenagers (up to and including 18 y/o) and children have sought treatment / advice from the Centre for Youth Health (CfYH) covering the metro-Auckland region because of issues relating to gender identity and being transgender

Table 1 below reflects new referrals for Gender Affirming Healthcare and Transgender or Gender Exploring active cases at the end of each year from July 2018 to July 2020. Data prior to July 2018 is not available as we did not code this information.

	Gender Affirming Healthcare – New Referrals			Transgender or Gender Exploring – Active Cases (at end of year)		
	CM Health	ADHB	WDHB	CM Health	ADHB	WDHB
01/07/2018- 30/06/2019	20	24	23	99	89	92
01/07/2019- 30/06/2020	31	34	48	100	99	130

Source: Centre for Youth Health

2. How many of these young people have been diagnosed as being transgender (as explained by the Ministry of Health <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/transgender-new-zealanders/transgender-new-zealanders-children-and-young-people> CM Health does not hold data on the total number of individuals currently living with any particular diagnosis such as gender identity in our district.

Clinical coding data can only be pulled of cases discharged from hospital (and uses standard ICD coding), and therefore can only identify the individuals who required hospitalisation. More commonly, these specific conditions will primarily be identified, and be clinically managed in the community, rather than via a hospital admission.

We have extracted available data for discharges from Counties Manukau Health facilities between June 2018 to June 2020 against ICD codes *F64 - Gender Identity Disorder*. We note that the current clinical coding manual does not include Gender Dysphoria. This data will not include any individuals who are not seeking hospital health care for gender identity, or those who are accessing community-based gender-affirming health care services. This data has identified the following discharge numbers in the last year.

All inpatient Discharges with a coding of *F64 – Gender Identity Disorder* between 01.06.2017 to 01.06.2020 all ages and genders. There were 54 inpatient episodes with Gender Identity disorder included as a diagnosis. These 54 episodes were for 41 patients - all aged over 18 years, and 85% were male.

3. How many teenagers and children (up to and including 18 y/o) have been prescribed puberty blockers.

Data on all individual treatment plans for those cases under the care of CfYH (including identifying a subset prescribed puberty ‘blockers’) is not systematically coded. Providing this would require a clinician to manually review individual medical files for all active cases. As CfYH sees more people for gender-affirming care, this is becoming a more substantial collation process. We do not believe that it is feasible for us to provide this manual collation of data, without adversely impacting clinical service provision. We are therefore declining this element of your request, under Section 18(f) of the Act – requiring substantial collation or research.

The CfYH is continuing to work with our Clinical Analytics service to improve automation of the coding of outpatient data for the region to include additional treatment and intervention details.

4. How many teenagers and children (up to and including 18 y/o) have received gender affirming genital surgery

None under CM Health.

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 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Apa', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health