

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Official Information Act Request for – Midwifery Numbers**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020, you requested the following information:

- 1. By month and since November 1 2019, the number of women booked with a hospital-based midwife/service.**
- 2. If there is a breakdown of the above figure to show how many women were so booked because they couldn't find or book with a community midwife, can this please be provided.**

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

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) has the highest birthing population of any DHB, with 8301 Counties Manukau-domiciled women giving birth in 2019 and of that group, 7527 women, including a proportion from other DHBs, gave birth in CM Health facilities. When other births within Counties are added 7,720 women relied on CM Health for secondary care should it be required. There is a shortage of midwives internationally, nationally, and in the Auckland metro region including self-employed Lead Maternity Care community midwives which creates a barrier for women directly accessing an LMC community midwife. CM Health has processes to enable engagement where at all possible.

We would like to note that the Women's Health and Newborn Annual Report is publicly available on our website (link below). This report describes practices, projects, data and achievements that reflect CM Health's commitment to equitable and quality care for the women and whaanau we serve. It also covers the recommendations of the National Maternity Monitoring Group and the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

- <https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz/our-services/maternity-services/>

We are proud of our people who work in maternity services: hospital, community and lead maternity carer (LMC) based. We are proud of the work they do supporting the health of women living in the Counties Manukau district and their whaanau. Our teams work under challenging conditions – ageing facilities, workforce shortages and the increasing clinical complexity that arises from obesity and the many socioeconomic determinants that impact on our community.

**1. By month and since November 1 2019, the number of women booked with a hospital-based midwife/service.**

There were 2535 women who booked with hospital-based midwifery services (DHB employed community or caseloading midwives) during the requested period. This equates to 34% of all births. However, many women are assisted to find self-employed Lead Maternity Care community midwives during their pregnancy and the percentage remaining under DHB community midwifery care at birth is only on average 18%.

Date	DHB midwife
Nov-19	184
Dec-19	190
Jan-20	257
Feb-20	221
Mar-20	229
Apr-20	231
May-20	246
Jun-20	232
Jul-20	187
Aug-20	198
Sep-20	185
Oct-20	175
	<b>2535</b>

Table 1: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 11/11/2020

**2. If there is a breakdown of the above figure to show how many women were so booked because they couldn't find or book with a community midwife, can this please be provided. Of the 2535 women, 1252 were offered out to an LMC after receipt of referral from the woman's General Practitioner or the woman herself, with 336 being transferred to the care of an LMC after initial referral to the DHB services.**

I trust that this information is helpful. 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



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