

5th October 2021

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

Dear s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – Fiji Patient Evacuation

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 30th July 2021, you requested the following information:

- **I request all correspondence received and sent by staff at Auckland Hospital, Middlemore Hospital or Northshore Hospital which relate to a request for an individual to be transferred from Fiji to New Zealand for COVID-19 care. This should include but not be limited to emails between the staff at the DHBs and staff at the Ministry and between DHB management and clinicians. The period I am requesting this information is from Thursday 22 July 2021 to Friday 30 July 2021.**

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 metro Auckland DHBs (Counties Manukau, Waitematā and Auckland) work together collaboratively to share demand for patient care across the region. Counties Manukau Health has well-developed processes for the management of COVID-19 patients at our hospitals. During June and July 2021, there were capacity constraints in our ICU as a result of a Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) outbreak.

On receiving the initial referral request to accept the transfer of a Covid positive patient from Fiji, the Counties-Manukau DHB Chief Medical Officer agreed to accept the transfer subject to agreement by the clinical treating teams accepting care of the patient. Given concerns raised by the Middlemore Hospital ICU clinical leadership the transfer was then declined. Subsequently, after receiving additional

information about the patient, their clinical situation and the situation on the ground in Fiji and further discussion involving all the Auckland metro ICUs clinical leadership there was unanimous service agreement to receive the patient into an Auckland ICU. The determination of the ultimate ICU destination was challenging given the capacity and specialist nature of the hospital ICUs.

We have attached as appendix 1, to the best of our knowledge communication you have requested above. CM Health has withheld the following under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982;

- Information to protect the privacy of the natural persons under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 – *protect the privacy of the natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.*
- Information between any international organisation under section 6(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 – *to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by any international organisation.*
- Information that is commercially sensitive under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 - *would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.*
- Information to protect international relations under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 - *to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.*
- Information to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 - *the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.*

In addition, we have excluded some administrative emails, for example, double-ups of the same email.

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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health

29 July 2021

Application number:

s9(2)(a)

Name

Passport number

Date of birth

s9(2)(a)

RE: International medical evacuation

s9(2)(a)

Thank you for the application for s9(2)(a) (the patient) to be medically transferred to New Zealand. I am writing to confirm that s9(2)(a) has been granted a conditional exemption from managed isolation on arriving in New Zealand. This approval applies only to those listed above, not to any other accompanying travellers.

s9(2)(a) will arrive from Fiji on 29/07/2021 at 1600 via Air Ambulance flight at Auckland international Airport. Upon arrival s9(2)(a) will be transported to Middlemore Hospital via ambulance.


When s9(2)(a) is admitted to Middlemore Hospital, she will be under the care of s9(2)(a) and other relevant physicians. In hospital s9(2)(a) will be screened as per Auckland Regional District Health Boards COVID-19 screening protocols and will stay in an isolation room. She will comply with the infection prevention and control guidelines of the OHS.

If s9(2)(a) is discharged from hospital she will need to be moved to a Managed Isolation Facility for a further 10 days from her date of discharge.

To arrange entry to the Managed Isolation Facility, contact Medevacs@health.govt.nz with the details of the date and time the patient will be discharged.

More information is available at health.govt.nz/covid-19.

Kind regards


Dr Ashley Bloomfield,
Director-General of Health
Ministry of Health

Health Services
DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA



27th July 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am [REDACTED], a Consultant Anaesthetist (FANZCA) with Vocational Registration in Anaesthesia with the New Zealand Medical Council currently working as a Consultant Anaesthetist in Fiji as part of the NZMAT response to COVID-19.

[REDACTED] s6(a) | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Any assistance in extracting this patient would be most gratefully received.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Specialist Anaesthetist

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA

Hawke's Bay Hospital Soldiers' Memorial

Omahu Road, Private Bag 9014, Hastings, New Zealand

Telephone 06 878 8109 ext 4514, Fax 06 878 1677, email [REDACTED]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Fiji Patient assistance

Kia ora [Redacted]

Thanks for the heads up and the additional info. I'll contact our ICU and get back to you. Please keep us updated.

Kind regards



Waitematā DHB

124 Shakespeare Rd | Takapuna 0622 | Auckland

[Redacted] s9(2)(a)

www.waitematadhb.govt.nz



Released under Official Information Act

From: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 2:11 pm

To: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

Cc: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

Subject: Fiji Patient assistance

Afternoon,

As you know we are to accept the COVID positive patient from Fiji, there are still some details to go through however Air Ambulance are ready to retrieve her. I am after some support again, as she might not be able to be brought in for another 24/48hrs there is a chance the capacity in our Critical Care could be come restricted, with the end of the school holidays and increasing numbers of RSV. If this is the case when she lands, if our Critical Care is at capacity, is there any possibility of her being transferred to either ADHB/WDHB? I have attached her clinical notes for sharing with your Critical Care teams. Her oxygen requirement has increased and she is going to be ventilated prior to flight.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD



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Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MMH occupancy
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 13:15:48
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - **Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources** - Forward suspicious emails to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] don't mean to chase but before I can get the DG to sign off the approval for this medevac he does want the information on the occupancy of ICU

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Covid-19 Health Response

Ministry of Health

s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home** and **get tested**.*



From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:20 pm
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: MMH occupancy

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your call.

[REDACTED] at MFAT will be able to answer your first query about NZ vs Australia.

[REDACTED] will email you the current occupancy of MMH and our ICU.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

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countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Fijian Medevac
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 08:27:53
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Will you put [REDACTED] in direct contact with [REDACTED]? He did email you and I last night saying he was revisiting the decision.

Over to you :)

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Middlemore Hospital | [100 Hospital Road](#), Otahuhu | Private Bag 9331 | Otahuhu, Auckland 1640.
[countiesmanukau.health.nz](#) | **COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD**

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Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Date: 28 July 2021 at 08:13:33 NZST
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Fijian Medevac

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I would first like to acknowledge all the work that went in to preparing for the medevac over the last few days.

We are currently reviewing our medevac SOP in regard to a request for another Covid +ve patient in that we are requesting the MOH is notified as soon as possible and that the approvals will be signed off either by the DG or DCE not myself.

I am aware that Dr [REDACTED] was going to be talking to Fijian Health Authorities late yesterday. Do we know whether Fijian Health Authorities gave an impression that they would be contacting another DHB here in NZ?

Many thanks for all your work around medevac and providing the services to our Pacific neighbours.

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Covid-19 Health Response
Ministry of Health
s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

*Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home and get tested**.*



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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Request for direct patient admission; s9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 09:24:39

Hi [redacted]

See below. MOH have everything they need. Just awaiting your update once planned.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

s9(2)(a)
[redacted] s9(2)(a)

Middlemore Hospital | [100 Hospital Road](https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz), Otahuhu | Private Bag 93211 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640.
[countiesmanukau.health.nz](https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz) | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted] s9(2)(a)
Date: 27 July 2021 at 09:22:10 NZST
To: [redacted] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [redacted] s9(2)(a)

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ok perfect I have our approval waiting to be sent once we have the confirmand light times.

I believe Civil Aviation approve all flight times and paths ect to make sure they won't run into another plane or complications while in the air.

Thank you,
[redacted]

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 9:18 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

I have just been told they are waiting for civil aviation, unsure what for.
No flights yet.

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----
From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Date: 27/07/21 9:13 am (GMT+12:00)
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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Hi [REDACTED]

This is great thank you.

It appears we are just waiting to hear if NZAA will take the patient. Have you heard anything further from them on this?

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 7:19 PM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Evening,

The patient will be transferred directly to Intensive Care on arrival via the ambulance bay at Middlemore. She will be nursed in a negative pressure room. Once moved out of ICU she will be cared for on our COVID ward in negative pressure until discharged, if greater than 14 days we will arrange her transfer home, if prior to 14 days (unlikely) she will go to Jet Park. Discharge planning depends on her status.

Asymptomatic surveillance testing will begin weekly with those that care for her and we aim for only vaccinated staff to care for her.

Is this sufficient?

[Redacted]

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)
Date: 26/07/21 6:40 pm (GMT+12:00)
To: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)
[Redacted] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

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Hi [Redacted]

We are aware this is in progress and so we have all the documentation we require are you able to forward to us the Middlemore Isolation plan that will need to be sighted by the MOoH before approval can be given.

Please call if you require any further information.

[Redacted]

COVID-19 Health System Response, Ministry of Health

[Redacted] s9(2)(a)

Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home and get tested**.



From: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:33 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Request for direct patient admission; [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

Dear [Redacted]

Please find attached our request for direct admission for this patient accepted to Middlemore Hospital ICU. Currently planning to arrange a medevac for arrival tomorrow (27.07.2021) pending approvals. Attached please find:

- Request form
- Passport
- Guarantee of payment
- Medical referral

I understand a border visa has been requested from Fiji. Please feel free to contact me (or [REDACTED] for any further details.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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

s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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Released under Official Information Act

s9(2)(a)

Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Medevac from CWM Suva
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 09:36:57

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is coordinating a clinical handover (yet to be scheduled). She will keep you in the loop so you can include the relevant ICU team.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Middlemore Hospital | [100 Hospital Road](#), Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu,
Auckland 1640.

[countiesmanukau.health.nz](#) | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH
BOARD

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MMH occupancy
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:19:51

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your call.

[REDACTED] at MFAT will be able to answer your first query about NZ vs Australia.

[REDACTED] will email you the current occupancy of MMH and our ICU.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NZAAS
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 20:59:36
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[POA Suva - Auckland 29 July 628.pdf](#)

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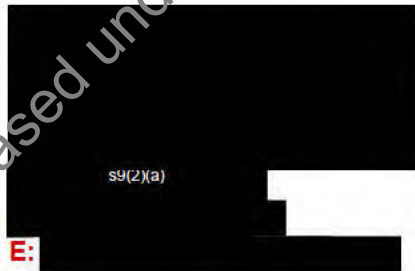
Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the call today. Could you please confirm in writing patient [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) (COVID +) is accepted into Middlemore hospital. Our team have reactivated the mission and preparing for departure 0900. Tomorrow is the only opportunity due to aircraft availability until Monday 2 August. All approvals must be through before 0900.

I look forward to your urgent response and confirmation the NZ approvals can be resubmitted for tomorrow including MOH exemption.

Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [REDACTED]



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28 July 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

This is to confirm the above patient has been accepted for transfer from Fiji for care due to her COVID-19 illness into New Zealand. The Auckland Regional District Health Boards (Counties Manukau, Auckland City and Waitemata) have come together and together accept [Redacted] to be cared for in Auckland. Her hospital destination will be decided by 10am 29 July. Counties Manukau District Health Board (Middlemore) Clinical Director [Redacted] has accepted this patient on behalf of the Auckland Regional DHBs.

The Auckland Regional DHBs are not responsible for the cost of this transfer or the cost of her care.

Regards

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Kind | **Excellent** | **Valuing everyone** | **Together**
Manaakitanga | Rangatiratanga | Whakawhanaungatanga | Kotahitanga

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Plan of Action



Location:	Auckland, NZ – Suva, Fiji – Auckland, NZ
CEO:	[REDACTED] (Skyline Aviation & NZAAS)
Risk Description:	Transport of a COVID-19 positive patient
Date of Mission:	29 July 2021
Mission Number:	s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] All patient details and clinical records will be saved against this mission within CAMP)
Sending Hospital:	Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva
Receiving Hospital:	Middlemore Hospital, Auckland
Risk Assessment / Change Management plan conducted by:	[REDACTED] Group Quality & Safety Manager

Mission Timeline (All times are local):

27 July 2021 – ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL	
1300-1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full team brief @ Hangar – including SJA Isopod trainer and technician and NZAAS/SAL retrieval team. - Refamiliarisation with Isopod – dry run loading and unloading. - COVID swab collection - retrieval team. - Discussion/planning regarding NZAAS/SAL Infection control prevention and guidelines with SJA.
29 July 2021 – ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL	
0630	Team meet at hangar, assemble equipment – pack all medical equipment in protective bags/ load aircraft.
0900	ZK-NXJ departs NZAA for NFNA.
1210	ZK-NXJ arrives NFNA – team don full PPE – N95, Coveralls, Goggles, face shields, gloves.
1215	ZK-NXJ met by local authorities.
1220	Patient arrives by local ambulance at Nasouri Airport via ground ambulance for tarmac handover. Pt will be ventilated and intubated at CWSM prior to ambulance transfer to Nasouri airport.
1225	Clinical team receive handover of patient from local team. Pt is commenced on NZAAS ventilator, following COVID-19 infection prevention guidelines.
1300	Refuel complete
1300	Pt transferred into Isopod/isopod sealed
1310	Isopod wiped with Clinell/bactive wipes prior to transferring into aircraft. Team doff PPE on tarmac – PPE station set up away from patient loader and Fiji teams. Team don full PPE donned for patient movement into aircraft. Medical team remain in full PPE throughout flight. Pilots’ close cockpit doors and remain in surgical mask for flight (due to communication/operational requirements)
1310	Patient loaded into ZK-NXJ by NZAAS team
1315	ZK-NXJ departs NFNA to NZAA
1630	ZK-NXJ arrives NZAA, Air Centre 1.
1700	Customs/MPI formalities complete <i>**IF team are required to remove masks for Customs identification – full doff/don of PPE required therefore allow an extra 15 minutes for same**</i>
1715	Patient, Nurse, Dr and isopod technician depart Air Centre one for MMH via ground ambulance
1720	Pilots taxi to NZAAS/SAL Hangar. Aircraft and all equipment are wiped with Clinell /Bactive and fogged with Nanocyn as per NZAAS COVID-19 infection control guidelines.
1745	Patient and medical team arrive at Middlemore
1815	PPE is doffed at MMH. PPE is donned for ambulance transfer to Hangar.
1845	Medical team and Isopod Tech arrive at NZAAS hangar. All equipment is Clinell/Bactive wiped and Nanocyn fogged as per NZAAS/SAL COVID-19 infection control guidelines.
1915	Team Doff and dispose of PPE.
1930	Team disperse – Pilots and FD self-isolate in accommodation for 48hr minimum.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Fiji
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:58:33
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

I'm sure we can manage on a case by case basis as needed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)

Level 4 | Building 1 | Auckland City Hospital

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Working in partnership, enabling self-management, promoting independence.
Welcome Haere Mai | Respect Manaaki | Together Tuhono | Aim High Angamua

On 27/07/2021, at 12:54, [REDACTED] wrote:

Afternoon [REDACTED],

I am trying to manage this patient and to support our ICU, can I please have confirmation from ADHB (thanks [REDACTED] for your reply for WDHB) that any other COVID-19 patients requiring hospital level care can be discussed with either WDHB or ADHB?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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<image002.png>

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 1:42 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: COVID-19 Fiji
Importance: High

Afternoon,

As discussed this morning at RPG, we are to receive a day 7 COVID-19 patient from Fiji, she is now going to be intubated prior to transfer. I am asking for support from ADHB/WDHB at this time as our critical care complex layout with the increased number of paediatric admissions can only host 1 positive COVID-19 patient. If we were to admit another then we would need to move/close the paediatric spaces and during an RSV outbreak we are unable to do this.

Therefore can we have your support if there are any COVID-19 patients from Jet Park (or the community) that need admission they are either referred to WDHB/ADHB? This will just be whilst this patient is in Critical Care.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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<image003.png>

Please consider *the environment* before printing this email.

Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji Patient assistance
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 15:22:59
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Thanks. I think ICU input is required early on in these decisions if the likelihood is high that another regional DHB will be asked to take the patient in their ICU.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 2:58 pm
To: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji Patient assistance

Our ICU CD is going to be contacting each of the DHBs today and a collective agreement needs to be made about the location this patient is to go. As we accepted her however capacity could be our challenge.

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

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From: [REDACTED] p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji Patient assistance

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for the heads up and the additional info. I'll contact our ICU and get back to you. Please

keep us updated.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Waitematā DHB

124 Shakespeare Rd | Takapuna 0622 | Auckland

s9(2)(a) [Redacted]

www.waitematadhb.govt.nz



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 2:11 pm
To: [Redacted]
<[Redacted]>
Cc: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Subject: Fiji Patient assistance

Afternoon,

As you know we are to accept the COVID positive patient from Fiji, there are still some details to go through however Air Ambulance are ready to retrieve her. I am after some support again, as she might not be able to be brought in for another 24/48hrs there is a chance the capacity in our Critical Care could be come restricted, with the end of the school holidays and increasing numbers of RSV. If this is the case when she lands, if our Critical Care is at capacity, is there any possibility of her being transferred to either ADHB/WDHB? I have attached her clinical notes for sharing with your Critical Care teams. Her oxygen requirement has increased and she is going to be ventilated prior to flight.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s9(2)(a) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MMH occupancy
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:24:15
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - **Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources** - Forward suspicious emails to [REDACTED]

Many thanks [REDACTED]

I have put in a call and email to [REDACTED] for that information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])

*Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home** and **get tested**.*



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:20 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MMH occupancy

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your call.

[REDACTED] at MFAT will be able to answer your first query about NZ vs Australia.

[REDACTED] will email you the current occupancy of MMH and our ICU.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

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could send through the final details to both myself and the Medevac team we will get the new letter drawn up for [REDACTED] sign-off

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Covid-19 Health Response

Ministry of Health

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])

Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; practice good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), sign into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell stay home and get tested.



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:43 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: NZAAS

Morning,

I have just had confirmation that Middlemore Hospital will be accepting the care of [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) today.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

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Please consider **the environment** before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:59 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: NZAAS

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the call today. Could you please confirm in writing patient [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) (COVID +) is accepted into Middlemore hospital. Our team have reactivated the mission and preparing for departure 0900. Tomorrow is the only opportunity due to aircraft availability until Monday 2 August. All approvals must be through before 0900.

I look forward to your urgent response and confirmation the NZ approvals can be resubmitted for tomorrow including MOH exemption.

Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

ss(2)(a)

E: [REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NZAAS
Date: Thursday, 29 July 2021 10:58:37
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

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Good morning [REDACTED]
Yes – we will call you on [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) upon arrival into MMH.

Kind Regards,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires please email [REDACTED]



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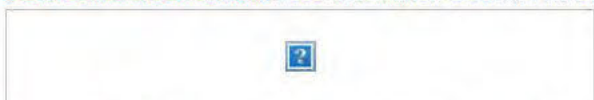
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 10:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NZAAS

Thanks, is there any chance on arrival to Middlemore I can be called? I am have mapped out a safe route to Critical Care so need to be there to manage this with our security



s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:53 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NZAAS

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Thanks [REDACTED] appreciate the confirmation, timing is on track, aircraft is taking off shortly.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:49 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NZAAS

Morning,

I was just doing this as your email came through, attached is the updated letter, and I can confirm that Middlemore Hospital is the accepting DHB.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:46 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NZAAS

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Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has asked for a new letter to be drawn up as the physician in charge has changed as well. If you could send through the final details to both myself and the Medevac team we will get the new letter drawn

up for [REDACTED] sign-off

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Covid-19 Response

Covid-19 Health Response

Ministry of Health

[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])

Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; practice good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), sign into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell stay home and get tested.



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:43 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: NZAAS

Morning,

I have just had confirmation that Middlemore Hospital will be accepting the care of [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) today.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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Please consider **the environment** before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:59 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: NZAAS

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources - Forward suspicious emails to [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the call today. Could you please confirm in writing patient [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) COVID +) is accepted into Middlemore hospital. Our team have reactivated the mission and preparing for departure 0900. Tomorrow is the only opportunity due to aircraft availability until Monday 2 August. All approvals must be through before 0900.

I look forward to your urgent response and confirmation the NZ approvals can be resubmitted for tomorrow including MOH exemption.

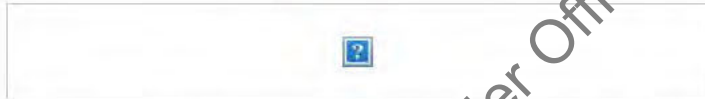
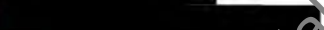
Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [REDACTED]



s9(2)(a)

E:



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From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [Redacted]
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 15:06:34
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[Fiji Assistance.docx](#)

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - **Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources** - Forward suspicious emails to [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

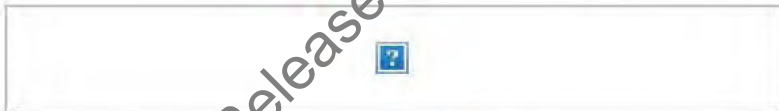
Please find a letter in regard to the current status in Fiji from a NZ doctor currently on the ground there. Please circulate.

Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [Redacted]



[Redacted] s9(2)(a)
E: [Redacted]



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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 11:41 am
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

No worries

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 27/07/21 11:39 am (GMT+12:00)

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

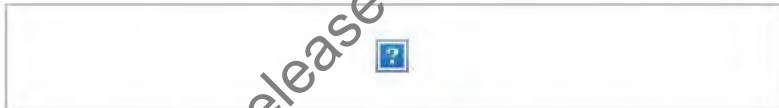
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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Hi, Fiji team have not confirmed teleconference time, there will be a delay. Back to you when we know when they are free

Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 10:56 am

To: [REDACTED]

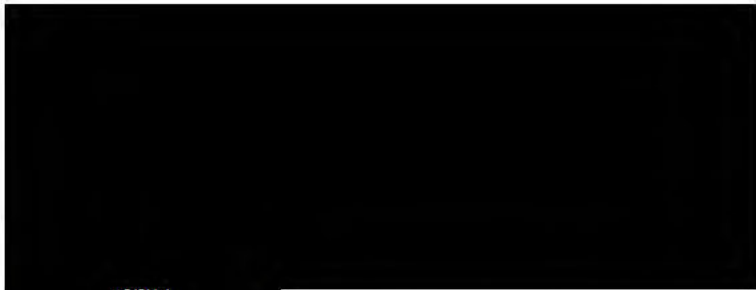
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Hi [REDACTED]

Can you please follow this through for [REDACTED]

Kind regards,



s9(2)(a)

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 Jul 2021 10:52 a.m.
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [Redacted] s9(2)(a)

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Hi [Redacted]

Teleconference with medical teams is 11:30am today, can you provide a cell phone number of someone from your team that can join?

Best Wishes,

For ambulance, medical escort and assistance enquires, please email [Redacted]



s9(2)(a)

E: [Redacted]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 9:25 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Hi [REDACTED]

See below. MOH have everything they need. Just awaiting your update once planned.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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[countiesmanukau.health.nz](#) | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 27 July 2021 at 09:22:10 NZST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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ok perfect I have our approval waiting to be sent once we have the confirmand light times.

I believe Civil Aviation approve all flight times and paths ect to make sure they won't run into another plane or complications while in the air.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 9:18 AM

To: [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

I have just been told they are waiting for civil aviation, unsure what for.

No flights yet.

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 27/07/21 9:13 am (GMT+12:00)

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED]

This is great thank you.

It appears we are just waiting to hear if NZAA will take the patient. Have you heard anything further from them on this?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 7:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Evening,

The patient will be transferred directly to Intensive Care on arrival via the ambulance bay at Middlemore. She will be nursed in a negative pressure room. Once moved out of ICU she will be cared for on our COVID ward in negative pressure until discharged, if greater than 14 days we will arrange her transfer home, if prior to 14 days (unlikely) she will go to Jet Park. Discharge planning depends on her status.

Asymptomatic surveillance testing will begin weekly with those that care for her and we aim for only vaccinated staff to care for her.

Is this sufficient?

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----
From [REDACTED]
Date: 26/07/21 6:40 pm (GMT+12:00)
To: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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Hi [REDACTED]

We are aware this is in progress and so we have all the documentation we require are you able to forward to us the Middlemore Isolation plan that will

need to be sighted by the MOoH before approval can be given.

Please call if you require any further information.



COVID-19 Health System Response, Ministry of Health

ss(2)(a)

Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home and get tested**.



From:

[Redacted] ss(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:33 PM

To:

[Redacted]

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject: Request for direct patient admission;

[Redacted] ss(2)(a)

Dear

[Redacted]

Please find attached our request for direct admission for this patient accepted to Middlemore Hospital ICU. Currently planning to arrange a medevac for arrival tomorrow (27.07.2021) pending approvals. Attached please find:

Request form

Passport

Guarantee of payment

Medical referral

I understand a border visa has been requested from Fiji. Please feel free to contact me (or [Redacted] for any further details.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] s9(2)(a) [Redacted]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; s9(2)(a)
Date: Thursday, 29 July 2021 11:47:13
Attachments: [29072021113806-0001.pdf](#)

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Kia ora,

Attaches is the updated letter for [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

The patient is coming in on 29/07/2021 eta 1600 via New Zealand Air Ambulance flight and will go in a ground ambulance to Middlemore Hospital.

In addition to the normal precautions taken when [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is discharged the Medical Officer of Health has stated that because the patient is hospitalised due to COVID-19, they will also have to be suitably isolated (most likely in Jet Park) for a further 10 days from their date of discharge, regardless of any 14-day requirement from their date of arrival. This is because severe COVID-19 cases can have longer infectious periods than the standard 10 days.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COVID-19 Health System Response, Ministry of Health

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 2:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Kia ora,

Attached is the approved medevac letter for [redacted] s9(2)(a)

The patient is coming in on 28/07/2021 at 1600 via New Zealand Air Ambulance flight.

APSSO- can you please grant an emergency visa.

In addition to the normal precautions taken when [redacted] s9(2)(a) is discharged the Medical Officer of Health has stated that because the patient is hospitalised due to COVID-19, they will also have to be suitably isolated (most likely in Jet Park) for a further 10 days from their date of discharge, regardless of any 14-day requirement from their date of arrival. This is because severe COVID-19 cases can have longer infectious periods than the standard 10 days.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

COVID-19 Health System Response, Ministry of Health

[redacted] s9(2)(a)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:33 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Request for direct patient admission; [redacted] s9(2)(a)

Dear [redacted]

Please find attached our request for direct admission for this patient accepted to Middlemore Hospital ICU. Currently planning to arrange a medevac for arrival tomorrow (27.07.2021) pending approvals. Attached please find:

- Request form
- Passport
- Guarantee of payment
- Medical referral

I understand a border visa has been requested from Fiji. Please feel free to contact me (or [redacted]) for any further details.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Date: Monday, 26 July 2021 16:11:09
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I have been advised that International SOS will be contracting to NZAA to do this Medevac. NZAA have some terms and conditions to be worked through. Best wishes for pulling all this together.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 1:43 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

International SOS are working on this currently, Air Ambulance seem to have declined the transfer.

[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 1:40 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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Hi [REDACTED], do we know if it will be air Ambulance flying or other? I have been advised the NZ Air Ambulance will

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 1:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Thanks [REDACTED],

Just to update Dr [REDACTED] – Respiratory Medicine and Dr [REDACTED] – Intensivist have accepted this patients care.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:33 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for direct patient admission; [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached our request for direct admission for this patient accepted to Middlemore Hospital ICU. Currently planning to arrange a medevac for arrival tomorrow (27.07.2021) pending approvals. Attached please find:

- Request form
- Passport
- Guarantee of payment
- Medical referral

I understand a border visa has been requested from Fiji. Please feel free to contact me (or [redacted]) for any further details.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]

s9(2)(a)
 [redacted]
 [redacted]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Transfer from Fiji
Date: Monday, 26 July 2021 15:27:17
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thanks [REDACTED]

I've let our team here know, as the transfer plan will need to be signed off by a Medical Officer of Health under the exemption provisions.

Is the Ministry aware of this transfer [REDACTED])?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

Visit: www.arphs.health.nz | [Auckland Regional Public Health Service](#) | [@aklpublichealth](#)

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Welcome Haere Mai | Respect Mātauranga | Together Tūhono | Aim High Angamua

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 2:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transfer from Fiji
Importance: High

Afternoon,

Our CMO, Intensivist and respiratory teams have accepted a [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) COVID-19 positive patient from Fiji. She works for the [REDACTED] and they have been through the High Commissioner to get this approval, the hospital she is currently in only has 1 ventilator left and she is still waiting a bed in ICU.

Her name is [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) she is Fijian and is day 7, she has high oxygen requirement and is going to be intubated prior to transfer. We are still awaiting medevac approval, however once

all is completed and the full plan is in place I will let you all know.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ
Date: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:54:38
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Have you any indication when she will arrive I'm assuming she will be tuned due to oxygenation on transport

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

On 26/07/2021, at 12:39 [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This attachment also confirms that [REDACTED] pays.



s9(2)(a)

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<image004.png>

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 11:21 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ

Thanks [REDACTED]

What is the agreement/commitment from the NZ Government to take this person ? related to their [REDACTED] role is it?



s9(2)(a)

E:

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<image005.png>

<image006.png>

From:

Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 10:43 am

To:

Cc:

Subject: FW: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ

Importance: High

Morning

Fiji have requested our supported to accept this unwell lady with COVID-19. Attached are the medical notes and there is more detail in the main email. She is a team are working on the logistics of this and an acceptance from the MoH. However before we do anything we are going to need acceptance from Middlemore. Can you please review the notes and either approve or decline before I get the respiratory and critical care teams involved. They don't seem to have the resources to get her into their ICU. She is currently not ventilated but on 15 O2.

If you can review this urgently please.

s9(2)(a)

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<image007.png>

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ
Date: Thursday, 29 July 2021 12:58:18
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

None of us have any objection to looking after unwell patients with Covid (and I suspect none of us have any particular objection to caring for THIS patient).

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

Are we likely to find ourselves in this position again?

I look forward to your response

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:30 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ

Apologies for the changes. After high level discussions between the regional CEOs and MoH, CMH are now accepting this patient for admission to Critical Care, she will be arriving this evening, she is ventilated and will be going to ICU on arrival.

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

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]



Please consider *the environment* before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 4:20 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ

Hi all,

Just sending this on to all of the SMOs who may be covering Resp ward in the next week or so, and [REDACTED] – there is a patient in Fiji with Covid who works for [REDACTED]. They are in need of an ICU bed and [REDACTED] s6(a). They have been accepted by ICU at MMH and will be intubated in Fiji and transferred here in the next few days. We will of course be involved after arrival.

Very little other information at present, but [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) years old, previously well, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) on high flow in ED for several days and increased work of breathing. Had antibiotics and Dex.

Will further update when I hear more.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 5:11 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT - COVID-19 medical evacuation form Fiji to Middlemore Hospital, NZ

As discussed attached are the clinical notes for the patient from Fiji [REDACTED] s9(2)(a). There are more clinical notes below. I have spoken with International SOS who are arranging the flights and we have discussed for safety she would be intubated prior to transfer.

Once everything has been put into place I will send through the final plan.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Well that was disappointing
Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 20:55:27

Very!!!! We are going to revisit this decision again in the am with the team but i dint hold out a lot of hope.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

On 27/07/2021, at 6:49 PM, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I am sure you tried everything you could to help support the Medevac from Fiji. I would like an opportunity to remind CMH staff that we (CMH) have a s9(2)(b)(ii) contract with MFAT to manage the New Zealand Medical Treatment Scheme. I am the Programme Manager for Fiji and I am sure you can imagine that at the moment that is a heart breaking role to have.

To relieve Fiji of the sickest patient they have would have been a small contribution to their current problems.

How can I get our message out to our staff? The pacific has growing unmet need and supporting countries is getting more challenging by the day. I welcome your suggestions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji Covid patient transfer decline
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:06:51
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]

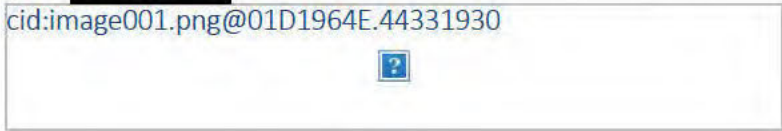
s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 5:37 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fiji Covid patient transfer decline

Kia ora [REDACTED]
I have discussed your decision not to admit this patient to the Middlemore ICU with [REDACTED] and with [REDACTED]. We all agree, that if there is a sound clinical rationale for not accepting the transfer of this patient and admission into our ICU then we should not proceed. However just to note, as discussed with [REDACTED] this is an exceptional case, in the patient being a [REDACTED] staff member, and this is not precedent setting.

I understand from our discussion and my discussions with [REDACTED] colleagues at WDHB and ADHB that their ICUs also have declined to accept this patient on the same grounds that we are declining.

Having made this decision we now need to inform the treating team in Fiji and the [REDACTED] of our decision so that they can pursue other ICU options? [REDACTED] s6(a) Can you please do the direct clinical team-to-team communication and I will follow up on the initial referral from the [REDACTED]. I understand from [REDACTED] his office/the MoH will also follow up with communication re this decision.

Finally, can I thank the ICU team for their of this referral and the challenging issues you have considered. I know this has not been easy. I will arrange for us to debrief in the not too distant future as there undoubtedly are learnings for all of us in this.

Nga mihi nui

[REDACTED]

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s9(2)(a)

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cid:image003.png@01D5FEA6.6480B340

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 5:21 pm

To: [REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Summary of Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for agreeing to meet with us.

To summarise our conversation and position regarding the request for assistance from Fiji for the transfer and treatment of the COVID positive case; as an ICU team we do not accept this patient into our Intensive Care. The reasons we discussed are as follows.

1. There are significant ethical issues raised in accepting this patient in these circumstances. We do not usually offer intensive care therapy to Fijian citizens. Our primary responsibility is providing intensive care to patients within our area, and to New Zealand citizens outside our area at our discretion. She is not the only patient seriously ill with Covid in Fiji. To offer care to this patient is inequitable, potentially sets a precedent, and compromises our ability to care for Counties patients.
2. As a unit we are concerned about the impact on our ability to care for Counties patients. Currently South Auckland is experiencing high levels of RSV infection in the paediatric population. We need to be able manage and treat this population for the foreseeable future. The school holidays have provided a 'fire-break' for us to regroup but we expect that the numbers will continue to increase in the next few weeks. Second to this is the need to be available to provide both a national spinal and burns service which by their very nature is unpredictable.
3. Finally, there is a significant staff welfare consideration. We expect our staff to place themselves in risky positions in the course of their work. This particular virus also places the staff's family in harm's way. Despite appropriate PPE and good vaccination rates the

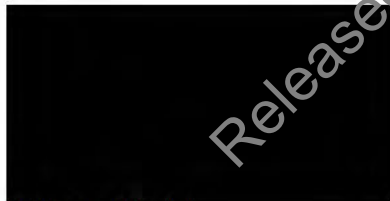
risk to the community and families of staff is not zero, particularly as we now understand the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant. Our staff are vaccinated, but their families are not. Staff welfare remains a primary concern for us and we have had it voiced by a number of staff members that they would find this risk unacceptably high, we know that staff distress and anxiety results in increased sick leave, and this will further reduce our capacity to care for patients of South Auckland.

This position is supported by the intensive care team at the Department of Critical Care (DCC) at Auckland Hospital. They have been asked for a second opinion regarding our position. DCC would not admit this patient to their unit for the ethical reasons discussed. DCC have discussed their position with the chair of the Auckland City Hospital ethics committee, and will urgent ethics committee meeting to discuss this issue should they be referred this patient. DCC have also said that they will not support or assist us with any capacity issues that develop flowing on from a decision to accept this patient. Given we rely heavily on DCC and PICU when patient occupancy and acuity escalates this is a major consideration. Dr [REDACTED] was the point of contact at DCC if you wish to contact her, and I understand that Dr [REDACTED] has also voiced an opinion that they would not accept this patient.

I have asked [REDACTED] to respond to me their position in writing, and I will forward this email to you when I receive it.

Moving forward I do feel that we should use this opportunity to either join the Auckland ethics committee or convene a local group to discuss issues such as this as this will undoubtedly not be the first request for assistance.

Thanks again for your understanding, the constructive robust discussion, and being available today



Middlemore Hospital
Otahuhu
Auckland

s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:05:42
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

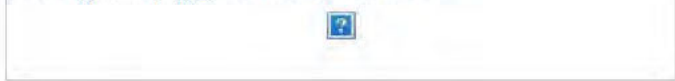
[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

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www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 12:41 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient, [REDACTED]

We have reset the request. The metro ICUs have been asked to determine the best ICU. Mtg at 1pm. I will call MoH and let them know. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 28/07/2021, at 12:10 PM, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] can you advise where we are at? R's [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Date: 28 July 2021 at 11:56:32 AM NZST
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED] worker

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

I am writing to you regarding an urgent situation for a COVID + patient from Fiji seeking medical treatment in NZ. I have spoken with our CMO [REDACTED] this morning and we agreed it would be best to contact you directly. (By way of background/introduction my role at the Ministry is focused on our international work).

The Ministry understands that DHBs will accept medical transfers from overseas on taking into consideration two important issues: 1) when there is a clinical assessment that treatment in NZ is necessary/appropriate and 2) when there is capacity in the NZ health system to accept the patient. In the case of a COVID + patient, the issue of safe transfer that protects the NZ population is a third important issue. (On this third issue, we understand that a safe travel plan was fully scoped yesterday)

In the case of the current COVID + patient from Fiji, we are seeking information/assurance that the 3 important considerations have been fully exhausted. We appreciate that providing this info may require convening ICU/ethics heads for a quick discussion. This is important as the Ministry needs to provide a national level response to queries we are receiving (including from media, Ministers offices and also the the patients employers - in this case the [REDACTED]). It is also important because we need to ensure that an international public servant from the [REDACTED] would be afforded the same level of investigation as a NZ public servant working for the [REDACTED].

I have cc'd in my colleague [REDACTED] who I understand has spoken to some of your CMOs this morning as well as [REDACTED] who has been involved in this over the last few days and who also has info on the safe travel plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need. We look forward to your advice as soon as possible. As I'm sure you can appreciate, the situation for this patient is critical as Fiji does not have the capacity to treat them.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Ministry of Health, New Zealand

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:05:18
Attachments: [image001.png](#)


[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930


From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 12:56 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Old (WDHB) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED]

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources - Forward suspicious emails to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] success by the sound of it. I'll call shortly - just stick in PM's press conference !!

[REDACTED]
Ministry of Health

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 11:56:25 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Subject: URGENT - Fiji COVID patient, [redacted]

Kia ora [redacted]

I am writing to you regarding an urgent situation for a COVID + patient from Fiji seeking medical treatment in NZ. I have spoken with our CMO [redacted] this morning and we agreed it would be best to contact you directly. (By way of background/introductionl my role at the Ministry is focused on our international work).

The Ministry understands that DHBs will accept medical transfers from overseas on taking into consideration two important issues: 1) when there is a clinical assessment that treatment in NZ is necessary/appropriate and 2) when there is capacity in the NZ health system to accept the patient. In the case of a COVID + patient, the issue of safe transfer that protects the NZ population is a third important issue. (On this third issue, we understand that a safe travel plan was fully scoped yesterday)

In the case of the current COVID + patient from Fiji, we are seeking information/assurance that the 3 important considerations have been fully exhausted. We appreciate that providing this info may require convening ICU/ethics heads for a quick discussion. This is important as the Ministry needs to provide a national level response to queries we are receiving (including from media, Ministers offices and also the the patients employers - in this case the [redacted]). It is also important because we need to ensure that an international public servant from the [redacted] would be afforded the same level of investigation as a NZ public servant working for the [redacted]

I have cc'd in my colleague [redacted] who I understand has spoken to some of your CMOs this morning as well as [redacted] who has been involved in this over the last few days and who also has info on the safe travel plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need. We look forward to your advice as soon as possible. As I'm sure you can appreciate, the situation for this patient is critical as Fiji does not have the capacity to treat them.

Many thanks

[redacted signature block]

Ministry of Health, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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Released under Official Information Act

s9(2)(a)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
www: [REDACTED]

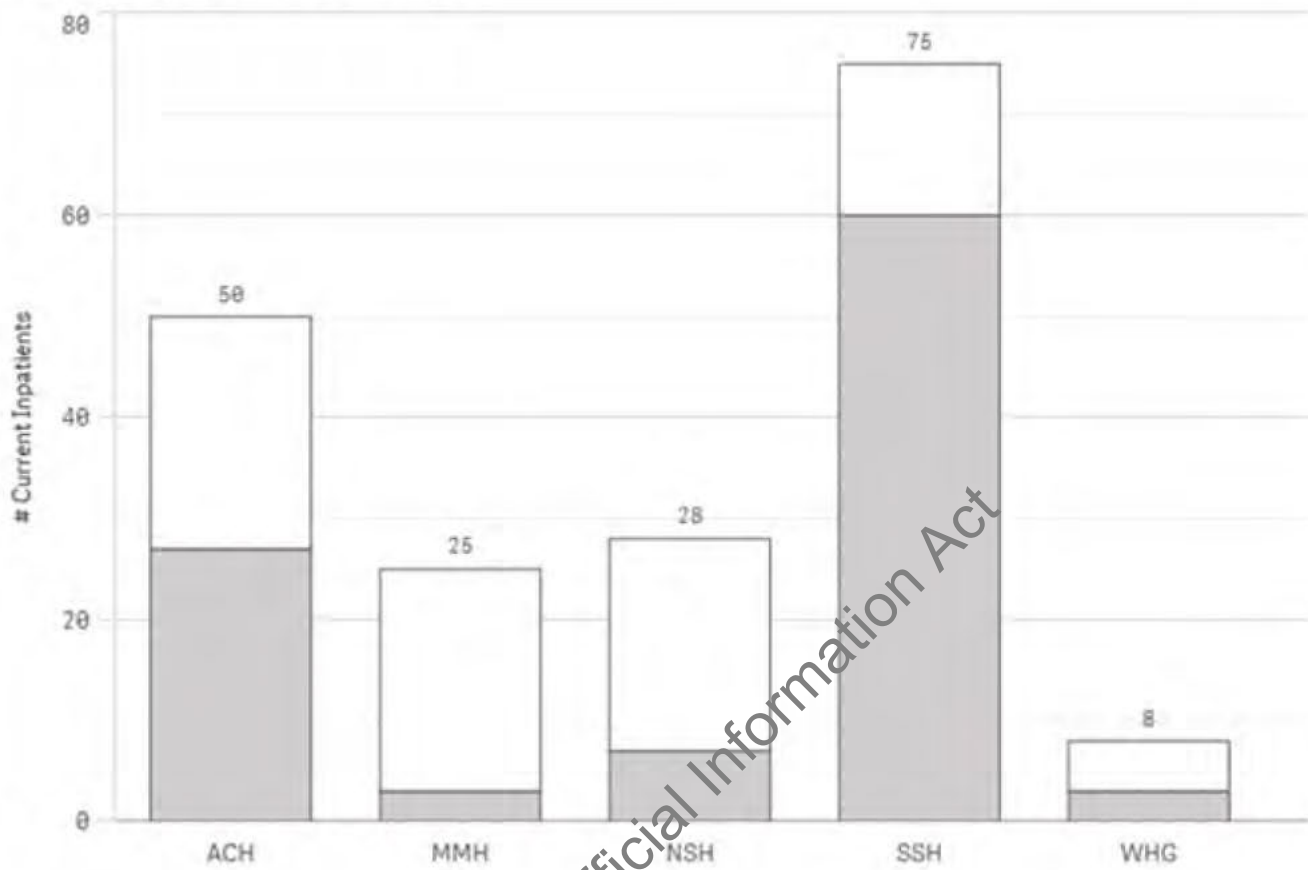


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 3:51 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED]

From regional data repository..... as at 3.30pm

Released under Official Information Act

ICU beds occupied and available



Released under Official Information Act

[Redacted]

Private Bag 94052 Auckland 2241

www: [Redacted]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 1:23 PM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient [Redacted]

When: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 16:30-17:00 (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: <https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us> [redacted]

Agenda

- Government advice
- Clinical situation
- Is transfer indicated
- do we have a safe transfer plan
- Implications of transfer or not
- on an ICU that takes patient
- on region
- comms



Hi there,

[redacted] (he/him) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

Join by Telephone

[redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

International numbers

Join from an H.323/SIP room system

Released under Official Information Act

[Redacted text]

Skype for Business (Lync)

<https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us> [Redacted]


Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji Repatriation Logistics
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:03:44
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:37 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Morning,

I have discussed with [REDACTED] this morning and am now liaising with [REDACTED], who manages the bookings etc, and there will be a plan in place by this afternoon. I will keep you updated.

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

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 7:24 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Hi [REDACTED], talk to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] about how we can get their families to sites or set up a special pop up/mobile service.

Sent from my iPhone

On 28/07/2021, at 8:36 PM, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Evening all,

Thank you for the hard work that has occurred to accept patient [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) into New Zealand.

I have spoken this evening to Air Ambulance [REDACTED] and the aircraft is still prepped with the isopod in the hanger. She is working hard this evening to get clearance to fly and approval to land in Fiji for a departure time of 0800hrs tomorrow 29 July landing in Auckland NZ at 1600hrs. If they do not fly tomorrow then they will not be able to assist again until after the weekend as they have other missions booked.

I have also made contact with the MoH medevac exemptions manager who is prepped and ready to have the approval letter signed by Dr [REDACTED] tomorrow once I have given them the final update of destination. To get this done promptly and without delay I am going to require a decision on the accepting Critical Care Complex in Auckland by 10am at the latest.

I am also seeking support and advice in regards to offering the COVID vaccine to families of those staff working within the accepting critical complex as another means of risk mitigation.

Regards

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

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

<image001.png>

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji Repatriation Logistics
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:03:20
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: cmdhb@org.nz

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:49 a.m.

To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Thanks team, we should prioritise the families of all of our ICU and services that are part of a covid inpatient pathway for vaccination. Can we arrange this please also regionally.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Private Bag 94052 Auckland 2241

www: cmdhb@org.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:38 AM

To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] >
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Morena

I can confirm that a decision has been made for Middlemore hospital's ICU to receive the Fiji based [REDACTED] staff member with Covid once they arrive back Auckland later today. We are very grateful to our staff for their acceptance of this. We are relying on all the other metro ICUs to accept transfers between the units to support the MMH ICU in managing this case but also other patients normally be admitted to the MMH ICU during the expected 3-4 week ICU admission for this patient. (I understand this morning the MMH ICU occupancy has increased significantly).

Nga mihi nui

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 28/07/2021, at 8:36 PM, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) > Write

Evening all,

Thank you for the hard work that has occurred to accept patient s9(2)(a) into New Zealand.

I have spoken this evening to Air Ambulance [REDACTED] and the aircraft is still prepped with the isopod in the hanger. She is working hard this evening to get clearance to fly and approval to land in Fiji for a departure time of 0800hrs tomorrow 29 July landing in Auckland NZ at 1600hrs. If they do not fly tomorrow then they will not be able to assist again until after the weekend as they have other missions booked.

I have also made contact with the MoH medevac exemptions manager who is prepped and ready to have the approval letter signed by Dr [REDACTED] tomorrow once I have given them the final update of destination. To get this done promptly and without delay I am going to require a decision on the accepting Critical Care Complex in Auckland by 10am at the latest.

I am also seeking support and advice in regards to offering the COVID vaccine to families of those staff working within the accepting critical complex as another means of risk mitigation.

Regards

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

<image001.png>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji Repatriation Logistics
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:02:55
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 9:13 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Morning,

I am working with Heather in the NRHCC this morning around getting access for the families to be vaccinated. The flight is leaving now for Fiji with an arrival time into Middlemore between 1730-1745hrs, depending on customs and transfer. I will have security escort them to the ED lifts to go straight up to Critical Care and have mapped out the transfer from the ambulance bay.

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640



Please consider *the environment* before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:49 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Thanks team, we should prioritise the families of all of our ICU and services that are part of a covid inpatient pathway for vaccination. Can we arrange this please also regionally.

[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Private Bag 94052 Auckland 2241

www: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:38 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Fiji Repatriation Logistics

Morena

I can confirm that a decision has been made for Middlemore hospital's ICU to receive the Fiji based [REDACTED] staff member with Covid once they arrive back Auckland later today. We are very grateful to our staff for their acceptance of this. We are relying on all the other metro ICUs to accept transfers between the units to support the MMH ICU in managing this case but also other patients normally be admitted to the MMH ICU during the expected 3-4 week ICU admission for this patient. (I understand this morning the MMH ICU occupancy has increased significantly).

Nga mihi nui

[REDACTED]

Released under Official Information Act

Sent from my iPad

On 28/07/2021, at 8:36 PM, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Evening all,

Thank you for the hard work that has occurred to accept patient [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) into New Zealand.

I have spoken this evening to Air Ambulance [REDACTED] and the aircraft is still prepped with the isopod in the hanger. She is working hard this evening to get clearance to fly and approval to land in Fiji for a departure time of 0800hrs tomorrow 29 July landing in Auckland NZ at 1600hrs. If they do not fly tomorrow then they will not be able to assist again until after the weekend as they have other missions booked.

I have also made contact with the MoH medevac exemptions manager who is prepped and ready to have the approval letter signed by Dr [REDACTED] tomorrow once I have given them the final update of destination. To get this done promptly and without delay I am going to require a decision on the accepting Critical Care Complex in Auckland by 10am at the latest.

I am also seeking support and advice in regards to offering the COVID vaccine to families of those staff working within the accepting critical complex as another means of risk mitigation.

Regards

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

T: 09 276 0044, Ext: 56633 | M: 021 348 252

[REDACTED]
Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

<image001.png>

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tomorrow 29 July landing in Auckland NZ at 1600hrs. If they do not fly tomorrow then they will not be able to assist again until after the weekend as they have other missions booked.

I have also made contact with the MoH medevac exemptions manager who is prepped and ready to have the approval letter signed by Dr Ashley Bloomfield tomorrow once I have given them the final update of destination. To get this done promptly and without delay I am going to require a decision on the accepting Critical Care Complex in Auckland by 10am at the latest.

I am also seeking support and advice in regards to offering the COVID vaccine to families of those staff working within the accepting critical complex as another means of risk mitigation.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

<image001.png>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Statement from Ministry on patient from Fiji
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:02:08
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 12:59 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Statement from Ministry on patient from Fiji

Please see below statement from MOH. A "very slightly" amended version of this will be delivered by Dr Bloomfield to media in a couple of minutes. We haven't yet received final version.

Attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

Health authorities have approved a formal request for the transfer and treatment of a patient from Fiji who has tested positive for Covid-19.

The Ministry's approval follows agreement by the metro-Auckland DHBs to treat the patient, and a transfer plan approved by a Medical Officer of Health from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and agreed to by New Zealand Air Ambulance Service.

The plan takes into consideration the safety of both the patient and the crew who will be transporting the patient.

The metro-Auckland DHBs are working in an extremely busy and dynamic environment, due in part to higher than normal presentations of RSV and winter illness. The receiving hospital is yet to be confirmed, and will be determined by the treatment required by the patient and the capacity in the respective Intensive Care Units.

There are appropriate isolation and infection prevention and control plans in place at all the metro-

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DHB hospitals to accommodate this patient.

The approval follows a request for specialist treatment in New Zealand. Requests for medical treatment in New Zealand from overseas jurisdictions, particularly in the Pacific, are common. Every request is considered, carefully taking into account factors such as the clinical needs of the patient, whether safe transport can be arranged and the availability of care in New Zealand.

While this request was initially declined for capacity reasons, the metro-Auckland DHB ICUs have now confirmed this treatment can be provided. The region will continue to work closely together to manage capacity issues.

The medevac flight will leave New Zealand this morning and return this afternoon.

The Ministry of Health has an obligation to protect a patient's privacy and is not able to provide further details.

[Redacted] Ministry of Health
[Redacted] Email: [Redacted]



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji COVID patient/[REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:01:18
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 3:31 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fiji COVID patient/[REDACTED]

Nga mihi [REDACTED]
this is a perfect email :)

Sent from my iPad

On 29/07/2021, at 2:46 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora team, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] want to thank you and the team. I want you to know that I don't think that this is the right outcome if we were truly thinking and operating from a regional perspective. A proper regional approach would be more focused on what is good for all our patients (both potential and current) and balance access for individual and our communities across the city. However, we will draw on the regional commitment to manage capacity pressures if they come to fruition and take this lesson into the new world. Until I get to see you kanohi ki te kanohi please let us know what we need to do to support the team and thank you again for your leadership and patience.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Private Bag 94052 Auckland 2241

www: [REDACTED]

Released under Official Information Act

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 1:23 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient [REDACTED]

When: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 16:30-17:00 (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: [https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/j/\[REDACTED\]](https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/j/[REDACTED])

Agenda

- Government advice
- Clinical situation
- Is transfer indicated
- do we have a safe transfer plan
- Implications of transfer or not
- on an ICU that takes patient
- on region
- comms



Hi there,

[REDACTED] (he/him) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

One tap
mobile:

Meeting URL:

Meeting ID:

Join by Telephone

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial:

Meeting ID:

[International numbers](#)

Join from an H.323/SIP room system

H.323:

Meeting ID:

SIP:

Skype for Business (Lync)

[https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/skype/\[REDACTED\]](https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/skype/[REDACTED])

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fiji COVID patient/[REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:01:04

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 3:35 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fiji COVID patient, [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the email, and your support towards us over the last couple of days.

I was fairly angry at the email and summary of concerns produced by [REDACTED] this morning.

I feel that he understated the effects on capacity and minimised the importance of the MMH ICU within the Auckland and National capacity –the effect of RSV, spinal and burns surge capacity are unpredictable and impossible to predict, and its our responsibility to be flexible and available to meet these national and regional obligations and the needs of our community

His wording of our concerns was a misrepresentation of what we presented, and his comment the Counties is the place that Pacific patients go, certainly not in keeping with modern values.

Released under Official Information Act

The ICU here will pull together and navigate this challenge, and I wish to thank you, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for your support.

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital

Otahuhu

Auckland

s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 2:46 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fiji COVID patient, [REDACTED]

Kia ora team, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I want to thank you and the team.

I want you to know that I don't think that this is the right outcome if we were truly thinking and operating from a regional perspective.

A proper regional approach would be more focused on what is good for all our patients (both potential and current) and balance access for individual and our communities across the city. However, we will draw on the regional commitment to manage capacity pressures if they come to fruition and take this lesson into the new world.

Until I get to see you kano ki te kano please let us know what we need to do to support the team and thank you again for your leadership and patience.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 94052 Auckland 2241

www: [REDACTED]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 1:23 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient, [REDACTED]

When: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 16:30-17:00 (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: <https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/> [REDACTED]

Agenda

- Government advice
- Clinical situation
- Is transfer indicated
- do we have a safe transfer plan
- Implications of transfer or not
- on an ICU that takes patient
- on region
- comms

Hi there,

[REDACTED] (he/him) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fijian Repatriation
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:00:53
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
Importance: High

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

[cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930](#)


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 4:19 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Fijian Repatriation
Importance: High

Afternoon all,

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- She has departed Fiji with an ETA into Auckland airport of 1835hrs. I will receive the call when they arrive in the ambulance bay.
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2. If manually typing in book.vaccine.covid19.health.nz, please type into the address bar (not your search engine, e.g. google)
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You can find out more about the vaccine and how it protects you and your community [here](#).

If you have any other questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fijian Repatriation
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:00:36
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 4:39 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Fijian Repatriation

Thanks [REDACTED].

That's a lot of work in a short amount of time and very helpful.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 4:19 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fijian Repatriation
Importance: High

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 11:00
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient/[Redacted]

[Redacted]
s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]
Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
www: [Redacted]



Released under Official Information Act

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 4:59 p.m.
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient/[Redacted]

Thank you for the summary [Redacted]

I would like to clarify (because it was said and I didn't get a chance to challenge while manoeuvring traffic) s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted] I know all hospitals have taken patients from the region who end up in ICU (sometimes not always in an organised way from the Pacific) and it would be good to hear from ICU leaders whether there is a better way to manage these referrals.

I haven't copied everyone to save the trail but important this is acknowledged.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:54 AM
To: [Redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient/[redacted]

Hi
Thanks for your time yesterday evening
We recognise this is a very challenging problem
Appreciate the honest conversation
Apologies if anyone felt not heard

To summarise

- 1/ We have had clear guidance that we should regard this patient as the equivalent of a NZ citizen and that this can't be devolved to another country or region.
- 2/ That the patient will die in Fiji if not transported
- 3/ That the NZ anaesthetist in Fiji thinks transport to NZ is the best option and is clinically indicated
- 4/ That she has deteriorated quite a lot in the last 24 hours, current state

- [redacted] s9(2)(a)

- 5/ We have a viable transportation plan (but not that protocol for returning staff and return to work in NZ is unclear)
- 6/ Patient will require a period of weeks in ICU probably – ?4 weeks
Likely to need at least 2 and at times 3 nurses per shift

7/ No ICU is well placed to take the patient for a range of diverse reasons
There were no volunteers!

- NSH – do have space currently, small unit, vulnerable to staffing issues, would have significant impact on planned care, work can be managed at other ICUs if needed
- DCCM - do have space currently, have been running over capacity frequently and using a lot of overtime, will have impact on transplant and other work that can't be done elsewhere, on up side are a large unit
- CVICU – only have one suitable bed space often in use with other viral disease currently, struggling to deliver cardiac volumes – high risk on CV wait list
- MMH – do have space currently, concerned that taking the patient will potentially have an impact on acute spine, if get several burns patients will be a problem, if further RSV surge there will be an issue with PICU capacity

Actions

- 1/ [redacted] to check in with DG to confirm understand impact on planned care and other healthcare delivery to local citizens – complete
 - understands this and considers this as concerning but necessary.
 - DG agrees that MoH comms should be able to assist us
- 2/ Press go on Transport – thanks [redacted] – complete
We are awaiting confirmation that this can occur
- 3/ Counties have very kindly agreed to take the patient in the first instance – greatly appreciated
- 4/ ADHB will be first call to accept any Counties patients as needed to decant
Please let me know if there are ANY barriers to this that from MMH perspective and we will solve them
- 5/ Certain clinical scenarios will require patient to move
Eg multiple spinal patients, burns, RSV resurgence
First point of transfer would be to DCCM
- 6/ We will reconvene if further challenges present

I think we should develop up a regional ICU group soon to keep working through these issues – I know ICU leads had suggested this 😊

I will have some further conversations about this

Cheers

s9(2)(a)

Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)

Level 12 | Building 01 | Auckland City Hospital

Welcome *Haere Mai* | Respect *Manaaki* | Together *Tūhono* | Aim High *Angamua*

-----Original Appointment-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 1:23 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: URGENT ZOOM - Fiji COVID patient/UN worker

When: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 16:30-17:00 (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: <https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/j/>

Agenda

- Government advice
- Clinical situation
- Is transfer indicated
- do we have a safe transfer plan
- Implications of transfer or not
- on an ICU that takes patient
- on region
- comms



Hi there.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fijian Repatriation
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 10:59:44
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 7:17 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fijian Repatriation

Thanks so much [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 29/07/2021, at 4:38 PM, [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

That's a lot of work in a short amount of time and very helpful.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 4:19 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fijian Repatriation
Importance: High

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Released under Official Information Act

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

<image001.png>

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s9(2)(a)

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s9(2)(a)

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Cc:

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Agenda

- Government advice
- Clinical situation
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- do we have a safe transfer plan
- Implications of transfer or not
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- on region
- comms

zoom

Hi there,

is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Fijian Repatriation
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 10:59:29
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Forwarding emails from [REDACTED] re Fiji patient as requested.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Middlemore Hospital, Private Bag 93311, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640

www: [REDACTED]

cid:image001.png@01D1964E.44331930



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 11:12 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Fijian Repatriation

Apologies there was an error with the end of the code for vaccines, please distribute this code

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

cid: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
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Cc: [REDACTED]
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