

Clinical : Paediatrics  
Proactive Release: 08 February 2019



19 December 2018

[REDACTED]  
Radio NZ  
PO Box 123, Wellington

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

#### **Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 28 November 2018. You requested the following information:

- **Is your DHB able to provide an FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?**
  - **If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment?**
  - **How many people; and how long is the wait?**

At CMDHB, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) assessments are currently provided by a variety of trained staff across the Paediatric Developmental/ Disability Services, and the Child and Youth Mental Health Services, or at times even within the Adult Mental Health Services, rather than a specific service.

For children referred for assessment for possible FASD under the Paediatric Developmental/ Disability Services, all referrals are prioritised and assessed along with children with other potential neuro-behavioural disability diagnoses, such as Autism, Intellectual Disability or genetic abnormalities. This is as part of our standard multidisciplinary assessment process, and includes paediatrician, psychologist and speech-language therapist input. The waiting list for all referrals in this wider group of children is currently around 4 months.

For children and young people referred for developmental concerns via the Child and Youth or Adult Mental Health services will be triaged, and are seen via community mental health multidisciplinary teams. In the last year, the wait-time measures for Child and Youth Mental Health services show that 94% of referrals will be seen within 2 months.

Counties Manukau Health notes, and is supportive of the national work arising from the Ministry of Health-led "*Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Action Plan (2016-2019)*", particularly as it focuses on cross-sector capacity and approaches to addressing this condition.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
**Chief Executive**