

07 May 2019

Email _____

Re: Official Information Act

Dear _____

I am responding on behalf of Hauora Tairāwhiti (Tairāwhiti DHB) to your OIA Request of 12 April regarding Gender-affirming healthcare availability.

Our response to your request:

You asked if the below gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Tairāwhiti District Health Board for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:

- **Puberty blockers:** Yes
- **Hormone therapy:** Yes
- **Mastectomy:** Yes
- **Hysterectomy:** Yes
- **Orchidectomy:** Yes
- **Facial hair removal:** No
- **Breast augmentation:** No
- **Voice training:** No
- **Facial feminization surgery:** No

Are transgender healthcare providers under the Tairāwhiti District Health Board encouraged to follow Oliphant et al's (2018) Guidelines for gender affirming healthcare for gender diverse and transgender children, young people and adults in Aotearoa New Zealand? If not, which guidelines do they follow, if any?

Yes, transgender healthcare providers are encouraged to follow these guidelines.

Is a readiness assessment required to access gender-affirming healthcare services? (This is an assessment of readiness for treatment from a medical and psychosocial perspective, as well as whether the client understands the risks and benefits of treatment, and is sometimes referred to as a 'mental health assessment').

Yes, readiness assessment is required to access gender affirming healthcare services.

If a readiness assessment is required to access gender-affirming healthcare services, who carries out this assessment? Is this assessment funded by the Tairāwhiti District Health Board? Does the assessment use an informed consent model?

Provided by Psych services Psychologist, it is funded by our DHB.

What steps is the Tairāwhiti District Health Board taking to improve healthcare provision for transgender New Zealanders?

Improved policies/pathways with mental health and sexual & reproductive health services/local community connections/reducing barriers

If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hauora Tairāwhiti DHB website. Your personal/identifying information will be redacted from any responses published.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Ngā mihi,

Briar Hunter
Communications Advisor
Hauora Tairāwhiti