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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10583

I refer to your email dated 6 April 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. Since the start of 2020 how many people have been made redundant at Canterbury DHB?

In the 15 months since 1 January 2020 there have been eight redundancies. (Seven of these employees were permanent staff and one was on a fixed term contract).

2. How many fixed term contracts been terminated?

In the 15 months since 1 January 2020, 127 fixed term contracts have ended (not terminated). And one staff member (as referred to above) was on a fixed term contract and was made redundant.

3. How many people have been employed as permanent staff?

In the 15 months since 1 January 2020, 1391 permanent employees have joined the Canterbury DHB. This number includes the intakes of NETP (Nursing Entry to Practice) student nurses and the RMO (Resident Medical Officer) intake.

4. How many fixed term contracts have been initiated?

In the 15 months since 1 January 2020 495 employees have joined the Canterbury DHB on Fixed Term contracts. (**Note:** This number includes 105 contracts that have already ended.)

For Questions 5 – 7:

We understand you received the following information from the Ministry of Health Media Team on 7 April 2021 in response to Questions 5 -7:

To ensure DHBs have access to infusion pumps and other consumables, the Ministry of Health has put in place a system not dissimilar to the centralised PPE national supply. The Ministry is able to leverage its ability to secure global allocations across trade and supply arrangements, with recognition of current global supply and logistics constraints.

The Ministry, together with Medsafe, PHARMAC, district health boards, suppliers, clinicians and technicians, has moved quickly to centralise the supply management of IV consumables, infusion pumps and syringe drivers generally, to ensure services can be maintained nationally and alternative solutions identified and supported.

Generally, DHBs manage their own sourcing of “business as usual” devices and consumables. However, when the supply chain is disrupted they alert the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health determines where the supply chain has been disrupted and can intervene, or if the supply is of national concern to maintaining critical health care services, the Ministry centralises the management and purchasing of items in constrained supply.

Noting the response from Ministry of Health above, we have responded to Questions 5 to 7 as follows:

5. How are your supplies of smart infusions, infusion sets, medications, and IV fluids?

Two Canterbury DHB (CDHB) services use Alaris pumps and so are affected by the current recall of Alaris pump lines (the rest of the hospital clinical departments use a different type of pump):

1. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) – NICU uses over 30 Alaris pumps. When the recall occurred other hospital clinical departments donated some of their pumps which was intended as a short term solution (these departments are now affected by having fewer pumps than they should have and need to have these donated pumps returned as soon as possible to be fully operational again). The donated pumps are for adults and there have been major challenges in adjusting and continuing to adjust them for new borns: fast-tracked training, programming ‘guardrails’ ie drug error reduction software and drug libraries, ie drug details stored in the pump’s memory.
2. Community Infusions Service (CIS) – uses 16 Alaris pumps. No other type of pump is available for the CIS either internally within the CDHB hospitals or from the Ministry which is managing the central supply process. To maintain operation, the CIS is using gravity lines currently as an alternative to the recalled (Alaris pump) lines.

In addition to the above Canterbury DHB affected services, the local private hospitals, St George’s, Southern Cross and Forte are all affected.

6. Are any of your supplies at critical levels? If so, what, and when will they be restocked?

CIS has a supply of unaffected gravity lines until the end of May and is awaiting an update from the Ministry on availability beyond May.

7. Are you able to replenish your above-mentioned supplies easily?

We are in ongoing contact with the Ministry team leading the supply management process but indications at this point are that supplies of new lines will be at least a couple of months away.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R La Salle'.

Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support