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RE Official information request CDHB 10378

I refer to your email dated 3 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding concerns expressed by Age Concern about the number of people who have lost their home help post Covid. Specifically:

1. **How many people in the Ashburton district were on hospital-funded home help:**
 - a. **pre Covid?**
 - b. **And how many now?**

We are unable to provide the number of people that only received Canterbury DHB funded home help as services are provided according to the needs of the person receiving them and are not defined according to the tasks that are carried out. We can confirm, however, that Canterbury DHB funded home based support services were provided to 530 people in Ashburton in March 2020 and 459 people who received Canterbury DHB funded home based support services in July 2020.

2. **What are the main reasons for stopping home help?**

It is our continued aim to enable our older population to remain living in their own homes, and part of this process is to review the care that is provided to an individual on an ongoing basis. Following a review, services may be changed to reflect the changing needs of the individual – there are no main reasons for ‘stopping services’ as care is provided depending on the goals of the person receiving that care. Following the COVID-19 lockdown period at alert levels 4 and 3, some clients declined to receive services and maintained the alternative arrangements that they had put in place during this time.

3. **Can you seek a reassessment if you lost home help?**

Yes, a reassessment can be requested.

4. What are the alternatives for people who still need help but don't qualify?

If people still feel they require help, and have no natural supports to assist them, then as detailed above, they can request a re-assessment.

5. How much does home help cost for the district?

Home Based Support Services provided by Canterbury DHB are bulk funded and therefore it is not possible to provide either the cost for the Ashburton district alone, or the cost of 'home help' specifically.

In the 2019/2020 Financial Year Canterbury DHB spent \$26,155,055 providing Home Based Support Services in Canterbury.

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



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