

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

8 April 2020

9(2)(a)

RE: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST CDHB 10280

I refer to your email dated 21 February 2020 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 24 February 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

Background:

International evidence shows that multidisciplinary care is a key part of providing best-practice treatment and care for patients undergoing oncology and other treatments. Multi-disciplinary Meetings (MDMs) are an integral part of the whole South Island Oncology pathways. Canterbury hosts over 80 MDMs each month across the SI health system and these meetings involve both internal and external clinicians and health and social service providers with expertise in a range of different specialities prospectively discussing options for individual patient's treatment and care.

These meetings are organised to be as non-disruptive as possible for patients in the care of these health and social service professionals and the health professionals themselves. Consequently, they often occur over meal breaks meaning the health professionals participating do not get their usual opportunity eat during the day. On these occasions food is provided.

1. What is the annual total spend by the Canterbury DHB on lunches provided for Multi-disciplinary team lunchtime meetings for medical and other staff?

Food for Multi-disciplinary meetings, Education and Orientation purposes, Christchurch Hospital Campus only, January to December 2019 was \$32,259 (GST exclusive) from Wellfood*.

a. How much the Canterbury DHB spends on this over the whole organisation?

Catering costs for Ashburton Hospital, Hillmorton Hospital, Christchurch Hospital and Burwood Hospital January to December 2019 was \$196,182 (GST exclusive) from Wellfood*.

***Note:** In 2017, Canterbury DHB made the decision to provide patient meals, catering, meals on wheels and on-site cafés through Wellfood (internal provision versus external contract). This has saved the

Canterbury DHB a substantial amount of money. This service gives Canterbury DHB greater flexibility and oversight of costs involved in patient meal provision. Because Wellfood is essentially a Canterbury DHB service the cost to the DHB of catering for meetings, when necessary, is minimal; and any profits from Wellfood services go back into the Canterbury Health system.

2. Was cutting that budget considered before cutting the funding for youth sexual health consultations in primary care, in order to cut costs at the CDHB?

Across the health system we look strategically and systematically at all levels of service delivery and how these are meeting the needs of the Canterbury population.

In respect of sexual and reproductive health, two significant changes in funding which increased people's access to general practice occurred in 2019, this meant people on low incomes could access general practice at a reduced fee. This led to changes being implemented to Youth Sexual Health. The changes were:

- Reduced consult fees for people with a Community Service Card meant eligible people and their families could also access general practice at a reduced fee.
- A new national initiative to provide Low Cost Access to Contraception & Long Acting Reversible Contraception was rolled out nationally. These new changes created overlaps in services and funding with both these services having similar aims: to increase access to contraception for young and at-risk people and to reduce cost barriers to accessing contraception and primary care support for those people who are economically disadvantaged.

Alongside existing services like School Based Health Services and the Sexual Health Clinic the Canterbury DHB continues to support a smaller targeted cohort of youth to access Youth Sexual Health.

I trust that 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



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support