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12 August 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10362 and South Canterbury DHB

I refer to your email dated 1 July 2020 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us this morning requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and South Canterbury DHB regarding how COVID-19 has impacted on the community oral health service for pre-school and primary school children. Specifically question 1.

1. **Can you please let me know the current percentage of overdue cases across the Northern, Midland, Central and Southern regions– and how that compares to the past two years.**
 - a. **What are the longest wait times?**
 - b. **Where are they?**

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the percentage of pre-school and Primary school children overdue for community oral health service as at the end of July 2020.

Table one: Canterbury DHB and South Canterbury DHB as at the end of July 2020.

Year	Overdue	>6 months overdue
2016	13%	0.5%
2017	14%	0.6%
2018	17%	0.8%
2019	15%	0.6%
2020	23%	1.7%

Note: Although we report separately for numbers of children overdue for Canterbury and South Canterbury at the end of each calendar year we don't have data, split by DHB, available for the current period (ie midyear) going back for previous years – so the figures above are for Canterbury and South Canterbury combined at the end of July each year.

We don't record the longest waiting times except at year end for annual CW03 reports that I note the Ministry is releasing. We do record the percentage more than six months overdue and we have included those figures.

It should also be noted that while the percentage overdue rose rapidly when services ceased operating (when the Level 4 lockdown started at the end of March) they have been steady since; the percentage more than six months overdue has dropped from a high of 3% at the end of May as we work through the backlog.

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, West Coast DHB and South Canterbury DHB websites after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support