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9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10637

I refer to your email dated 17 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year since 2006 until the present time?**
2. **What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/oldest/median age)?**
3. **How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

Please refer to **Table one** (overleaf), which shows the number of referrals and patients in endocrinology for gender dysphoria treatment between the calendar years 2011 and 2020 within Canterbury DHB.

Please note: The Electronic Referral Management system (ERMS) used to capture this referral and patient data records Canterbury-based referrals only. Additionally, Canterbury DHB can only currently access endocrinology data in ERMS from 2011 onwards, therefore we can only provide reports from 2011. Previous years' data on gender dysphoria is not collated in a central data system and is only available in patients' individual records.

We are therefore declining to provide information pre-2011 on questions 1 to 3 pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research...”*

Table One: Number of Canterbury DHB Referrals and Patients for Gender Dysphoria between from 2011 to 2020.

Request Calendar Year	Total Referrals ¹	Number of Patients ²	Gender group F to M	Gender group M to F	Gender group Non-binary (from F)	Gender group Unknown	Ages at referral (Years)
2011	2	2	1	1			13 and 32
2012	5	5		5			Range 20 – 63 Median 53
2013	12	11	2	10			Range 20 – 64 Median 35
2014	15	14	1	14			Range 20 – 59 Median 29
2015	9	8	2	7			Range 19 – 27 Median 23
2016	11	11	2	8		1	Range 19 – 69 Median 30
2017	26	23	6	19	1		Range 16 – 65 Median 25
2018	40	34	15	25			Range 16 – 63 Median 26
2019	58	54	14	42	2		Range 15 – 57 Median 24
2020	40	37	16	23	1		Range 16 – 55 Median 23
Total	218	199	59	154	4	1	

Notes:

1. Because some manual checking is required, we can only confirm electronic requests to endocrinology for gender dysphoria where this information is available in the first “Reason for request” line of the referral. The majority of the requests found relate to hormone therapy.
2. Some patients were referred more than once and may appear in multiple years’ data. There are 178 individual patients represented above.

4. How many children were referred for puberty blocking drugs in each calendar year since 2006?

Canterbury DHB does not hold data for children referred for puberty blocking drugs in a central and reportable system. This data would only be held patients’ clinical records and would require too much time to collate.

We can however report that as of 22 February 2021 there were 19 children (up to age 15) that were receiving puberty blocking drugs for gender reassignment hormone therapy in the Paediatric clinic.

We are declining to provide further response to this part of the request, pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research...”*

5. How many people had psychological treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?

Information on psychological treatment for gender dysphoria is not centrally captured by the DHB in a manner that enables us to report numbers.

For context, Child Adolescent and Family Service (CAF) accept young people at any age with moderate to severe gender dysphoria for assessment and treatment if there is significant functional impairment and distress – for example, not attending school; not maintaining peer relationships. This may include psychological therapy as part of a treatment package. CAF also see young people for gender dysphoria hormone readiness assessment.

Adult Community Services do not accept referrals specifically for psychological treatment for gender dysphoria. People referred to the Canterbury DHB for gender dysphoria may receive psychological support outside of Specialist Mental Health Service.

Therefore, we are declining to provide a response containing numbers for this part of the request, pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research...”*

- 6. How many people had double mastectomies (top surgery) as treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?**
- 7. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years?**

There have been 1800 patients recorded as receiving double mastectomy surgery since 2006. Canterbury DHB’s data systems do not record and distinguish whether or not these surgeries were related to gender dysphoria.

To provide this information, including a breakdown in ages, would necessitate an examination of each of the 1800 individual clinical records, which would require a considerable amount of research and time. We are therefore declining to provide a response to questions 6 and 7 of your request, pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research...”*

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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



Tracey Maisey
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Planning, Funding & Decision Support