



03 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 07 April 2022 pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, for information in relation to the range of services provided by District Health Boards (DHB's) for people who stutter. I can respond as follows:

1. Whether you do provide services for people who stutter?

Waikato DHB provides services to adults with fluency disorders if it is impacting on their quality of life. However, patients are advised that if they are able to access START or another specialist intensive program - then this may be a more appropriate option as Waikato DHB is not able to offer the intensive programmes that are able to be offered by these services.

2. If you do provide services for people who stutter, would you please advise

a. How many people who stutter that you have worked with in the last year including a breakdown of their ages and ethnicities

As the numbers of people using the services are very low Waikato DHB is refusing the request to provide the age and ethnicity for these individuals in accordance with the Official Information Act (1982) section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons and this is not outweighed by any public interest in its release.

The information that we are able to provide is:

Since 01 January 2021 - 3 patients have received input for stuttering
Ethnicity was recorded as - NZ European and Other European
Age range was between 20 - 80 years old

b. The type of services that you provided e.g. individual speech therapy, group programmes

Waikato DHB only provides individual speech language therapy sessions, and does not offer group programmes for people who stutter.

c. The number of sessions of individual speech therapy you provided in the last year

3 sessions of individual speech therapy have been provided since 1 January 2021

d. The number of any other programmes etc. that you offered and the number of participants in these programmes

No other programmes were offered.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the decision to withhold the information. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Christine Lowry', written in a cursive style.

Christine Lowry

Executive Director - Waikato Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board