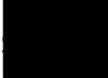


Wednesday, 30 September 2020



**Re: Official Information Act Request – Gender affirming healthcare services**

Kia ora 

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

**Hauora Tairāwhiti's response to your request is as follows:**

1. Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by this DHB for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available?

1. Hormone therapy: Funded and available
2. Mastectomy: Funded and available
3. Hysterectomy: Funded and available
4. Orchidectomy: Funded and available
5. Facial hair removal: Not funded or currently provided by Hauora Tairāwhiti.
6. Breast augmentation: Not funded, although application to the high cost treatment pool is possible. Available privately.
7. Voice training: Not funded or currently provided by Hauora Tairāwhiti.

1. Could you please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available?

People are referred from Hauora Tairāwhiti's Community Clinic or their GP.

2. Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services?

Yes. A psychologist's evaluation from Hauora Tairāwhiti's Community Mental Health team (funded), is required before commencement of hormone therapy, pre-surgery and at any other stage if the person wishes to have support.

3. In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?

Yes primary health providers can prescribe hormones. Hauora Tairāwhiti's sexual and reproductive health specialist also manages this through the local Community Clinic, and provides advice to primary health care providers when requested.

4. Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?

There is no requirement for 'real life' experience, although two years of continuous hormone treatment is a pre-requisite.

5. Could you please advise what the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the DHB does not offer this service? Does the DHB currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?

No, it must be privately arranged.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note this response or an edited version of this response may be published on the Hauora Tairāwhiti DHB website. Your personal/identifying information will be redacted from any responses published. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Ngā mihi

**Jim Green**  
Chief Executive  
Hauora Tairāwhiti