

Thursday, 20 August 2020



Re: Official Information Act Request - Impact of COVID-19 on the clinical workforce

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. *What percentage of your usual clinical workforce is overseas-trained?*

For the 73.6% of Hauora Tairāwhiti's clinical workforce who have reported on their country of first professional qualification, 22% of our clinical workforce are overseas-trained.

2. *If possible, please provide percentages of overseas trained staffers in each of these categories: doctors, nurses, midwives, and allied health, science and technical professionals.*

For the 73.6% of Hauora Tairāwhiti's clinical workforce that have reported their country of first professional qualification, the breakdown is as follows:

- Doctors: 53.8%
- Nurses: 16.6%
- Midwives: 33.3%
- Allied Health, Science and Technical: 15.3%

3. *What impact do you expect border restrictions to have on the DHB workforce over the next year?*

At present, the DHB workforce is not significantly impacted by border restrictions.

If the borders were to close for a long period of time over the next year, and the DHB was to receive a high number of resignations from hard to fill positions, this would put pressure on some of our services, and their ability to provide care efficiently.

4. *Are there specialties likely to be under pressure as a result of border restrictions? For example, because there is a small workforce in New Zealand or because of overseas training needs. Is so, which specialties and why?*

There are no specialities under pressure with the current border restrictions.

See answer for (3) also.

5. *Is your DHB currently recruiting for any clinical positions which you cannot fill with New Zealand applicants? If so, how many, and what is/are the positions?*

Yes. Though our aim is to recruit locally, it can be difficult to fill some positions with New Zealand applicants. Currently, these positions are mainly for senior medical staff.

6. *Have you had any overseas-trained and recruited clinicians cut contracts short and return home because of COVID-19? If so, how many and is what category?*

No.

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