

Friday, 29 October 2021

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**Re: Official Information Act Request – Childhood Immunisations**

Kia ora ██████

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

**The Hauora Tairāwhiti response is as follows:**

1. *Data showing immunisation rates for children at eight months of age, broken down by ethnic group, for each month in the past three years. Please provide this in a CSV or Excel spreadsheet format if possible.*

This information is provided on the Ministry of Health website and is publicly available. We are therefore declining a response to this question pursuant to section 18(d) of the Official Information Act.

You will find the requested information here: <https://bit.ly/314PElu>

2. *Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines possible reasons for a decline in vaccination rates among Māori and/or Pacific children.*

No formal analysis or advice has been created in 2021, which looks at the reason for “declines” among this group. Across the three years there has been variation in the percentage of “declines” and the rate of declines in the last six months has been at its lowest point.

Declines is where a whanau says “No” to being vaccinated.

The largest opportunity to improve vaccination coverage is in reaching children who have not previously been reached before their milestone age. This tells us that whānau want to be vaccinated – but there are some barriers/challenges to achieving this, within the current environment.

3. *Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines vaccine hesitancy, including in relation to the Covid-19 vaccines.*

Hauora Tairāwhiti has no formal analysis or advice in 2021 which looks at the reason for vaccine hesitancy among children and young people.

4. *High-level correspondence in 2021 with senior executives from other DHBs in relation to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.*

We do not hold any high-level correspondence in relation to senior executives from other DHBs in relation to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.

5. *High-level correspondence in 2021 between the DHB and Ministry of Health relating to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.*

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██████████████████████ el correspondence between Hauora Tairāwhiti and Ministry of Health in relation to this.

6. *Data showing the number of staff involved in childhood vaccinations for each month in 2021.*

There are several key players in the areas of childhood immunisation – it is not possible to break down their staff each month for 2021. However, the following areas are involved in this system

- General Practice - The majority of childhood immunisations are delivered by general practice.
- Immunisation Coordinators – Hauora Tairāwhiti employs 1.0FTE immunisation coordinator, supported by additional staff, such as National immunisation Coordinator and Outreach Reach Service. They provide additional input into the childhood vaccination effort but are not solely focused on childhood immunisations.
- Outreach Immunisation - The DHB does contract with a community provider to deliver Outreach Immunisation Services. This team has 5 people working within it.
- National Immunisation Register and LinKIDS Team – this is a team of 8 people working in Childhood Immunisation. This includes their team leader, coordinators and administrators. These are non-clinical staff who identify children overdue for an immunisation event and work with the general practice and whanau to get the child vaccinated. These FTE are not all full time on immunisation but work within the team.

7. *Data showing the number of staff who were moved from childhood vaccinations to the Covid- 19 response at any time in 2021.*

- General Practice – most general practice staff have continued to provide the service, so services are normal and have not been moved to Covid-19. However, during L4 & L3 limited childhood immunisations have been given.
- Immunisation Coordination – 1.0FTE has been seconded to the Covid Programme, but this role was backfilled.
- Outreach Immunisation – no impact on staff from the COVID-19 programme
- National Immunisation Register and LinKIDS Team – two staff were seconded to COVID- 19 in February 2021. One of these was backfilled in May 2021.

8. *Details of any recovery or action plan created in 2021 to improve the rates of childhood immunisation and reduce decline rates for Māori and/or Pacific children.*

- We are actively working to gain a better understanding over why whanau are declining immunisation or not being vaccinated on time. This requires both engagement with community providers and a better understanding from the whanau who are making these decisions.
- When the LinKIDS team is contacting parents, we are asking them what their barriers are - often this has to do with capacity at general practice.
- We were planning on sector wide Hui in August and September, but these have been placed on hold due to Alert Levels.

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 [REDACTED] there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi

**Jim Gre** [REDACTED]  
Chief Executive  
Hauora Tairāwhiti