

13 May 2019

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Dear Gloria

## **Official Information Act (OIA) Request** **Our Ref.: Y19-1161 / Y19-1181**

Your OIA requests of 12 & 16 April 2019 are acknowledged and have been passed on to me for a response.

You have requested the following information;

- **Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the MidCentral District Health Board for transgender patients and whether the services are currently available.**
  - Puberty blockers
  - Hormone Therapy
  - Mastectomy
  - Hysterectomy
  - Orchidectomy
  - Facial hair removal
  - Breast augmentation
  - Voice training
  - Facial feminisation surgery
  
- **Could you please also advise;**
  - **Are transgender healthcare providers under the MidCentral District Health Board encouraged to follow Oliphant et al's (2018) Guidelines for gender affirming healthcare for gender diverse and transgender children, young people and adults in Aotearoa New Zealand? If not, which guidelines do they follow, if any?**

- **Is a readiness assessment required to access gender-affirming healthcare services? (This is an assessment of readiness for treatment from a medical and psychosocial perspective, as well as whether the client understands the risks and benefits of treatment, and is sometimes referred to as a 'mental health assessment'.)**
- **If a readiness assessment is required to access gender-affirming healthcare services, who carries out this assessment? Is this assessment funded by the MidCentral District Health Board? Does the assessment use an informed consent model?**
- **What steps is the MidCentral District Health Board taking to improve healthcare provision for transgender New Zealanders?**

In addition, you have also requested the following;

- **How many transgender people received each of the following services, specifically for gender-affirming healthcare purposes, within the 2018 calendar year?**
  - **Puberty blockers**
  - **Hormone therapy**
  - **Mastectomy**
  - **Hysterectomy**
  - **Orchidectomy**
  - **Facial hair removal**
  - **Breast augmentation**
  - **Voice training**
  - **Facial feminisation surgery**

Dr Veronica Crawford (Endocrinologist) has advised that from her perspective there is no change from our previous response to your OIA request of 23 May 2018 regarding gender affirming healthcare services. The Endocrinology Service at MidCentral District Health Board are not seeing any new transgender patients.

Dr Anne Robertson (Sexual Health Physician) has confirmed the following;

- The Sexual Health Service is seeing patients on referral from General Practitioners.
- The Aotearoa guidelines are used and an informed consent form model is in place.

- Young people who are eligible for YOSS (Youth One Stop Shop) services (only in Palmerston North and Levin) have had access to psychology. Currently, the Psychologist is on maternity leave so there is no specialised psychology support within the DHB region at the moment.
- Interested counselling services and current mental health pathways are used as required.
- A Paediatrician (Dr Nigel Orr) is seeing some paediatric patients for puberty blockers.
- Hysterectomy is available. Breast surgery is not available but is being explored.
- The other services are not available.
- The Sexual Health service has had the go ahead to look at pathways.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the MidCentral DHB website 10 working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Lyn Horgan  
**Operations Executive**  
**Acute & Elective Specialist Services**