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18 October 2019

Elliot Ikilei

By email: fyi-request-11286-30accf4a@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H201908459

Dear Mr Ikilei

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for both of your requests, received at 1:06am and 1:20am on 25 September 2019, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding abortion services.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has consolidated your two requests into a single response.

The full wording of your requests and the Ministry's responses to these are outlined in Appendix 1.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under these requests.

Please note that this response may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Maree Roberts
Deputy Director-General
System Strategy and Policy

Appendix 1:

Request	Response
<p><i>I would like to request the pathway of the bodies/remains of those unborn human entities that are aborted, specifically by surgical abortion.</i></p> <p><i>I request to know, in abortions either Vacuum aspiration or Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E), what happens, if anything, to the remains.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to know:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>are all remains disposed of, or is there usage of such tissue? If so, how is such tissue used?</i> - <i>is there any usage if a whole body or parts of body is extracted from womb? If so, what are such body parts used for?</i> 	<p>The Abortion Supervisory Committee has standards for how abortions services and procedures should be provided and carried out including the disposal of pregnancy tissue. These standards are publicly available on the Ministry of Justice website: https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Standards-of-Care-2018.pdf.</p>
<p><i>I respectfully request information on the funding of abortion in New Zealand.</i></p> <p><i>I would be most grateful if you would send such figures as well as some categorizing into such sections as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>abortion services (medical/surgical)</i> - <i>community outreach (family planning, etc)</i> - <i>consultancy fees</i> - <i>operating doctors', nurses' wages</i> 	<p>Abortion services:</p> <p>The Ministry has interpreted <i>funding of abortion in New Zealand</i> as the funding provided for abortion services to the health system, rather than the individual.</p> <p>The Ministry does not allocate specific funding to district health boards (DHBs) for abortion services. DHBs are bulk funded using the population based on the funding formula and make decisions on the level and mix of services to provide in order to meet the needs of their local populations. This includes how the DHBs provide abortion services.</p> <p>You may wish to contact the DHBs directly for further information on how much they spend on abortion services, including services that are contracted to private providers.</p>

<p>Community outreach:</p> <p>The Ministry does not contract Family Planning to deliver abortion services. DHBs are responsible for planning and funding services and may have contracts with Family Planning to provide abortion services.</p>	
<p>Consultancy fees:</p> <p>The Ministry has interpreted <i>consultation fees</i> as fees payable to certifying consultants. The total for the year ending 30 June 2018 was \$4,068,482.08.</p> <p>Further information on this can be found in the Abortion Supervisory Committee's Annual Report, which is publicly available on the Ministry of Justice website: https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/ASC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf</p>	
<p>Operating doctors', nurses' wages:</p> <p>The Ministry does not hold information regarding the salaries of individual doctors and nurses.</p> <p>Multi-Employer Collective Agreements (MECA) set out the salary rates for both doctors and nurses. Please note the MECA is only applicable to individuals who are signed up to the MECA. These are accessible using the following links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nzno.org.nz/Portals/0/Files/Documents/Groups/Health%20Sectors/2018-08-23-NZNO-DHB-MECA-2018-2020.pdf • https://nzrda.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RDA-MECA-1-April-2019-31-March-2021.pdf 	
<p>There is no sale and purchase of any remains following an abortion.</p> <p>This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.</p>	<p><i>I would also like to request as to whether there are any incoming funds through a transactional process regarding pieces of an unborn's body or entire body? If so, is there a price list for such parts? If so, who would the customers of such human remains by abortion, be?</i></p>