

4 May 2021

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Micky Turner

By email: fyi-request-15232-540f1c28@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202104789

Dear Micky Turner

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from Hon Andrew Little to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 21 April 2021 for:

“Can you please forward all evidence held by the Government - which supports the implementation of blanket race based health prioritization vs case by case prioritization based on actual genetic risk?

While it is true that 'some' health issues are hereditary and gender &/or genes play a role in increased risk - surely not 'all' health issues can be attributed to race or gender. In many instances (if not most) it is unethical to bump a person up a priority queue simply because they are 'insert race &/or gender here'.

Wikipedia states:

'Racial segregation is the systematic separation of people into racial or other ethnic groups in daily life. Racial segregation can amount to the international crime of apartheid and a crime against humanity under the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Segregation can involve the spatial separation of the races, and mandatory use of different institutions, such as schools and hospitals by people of different races.
https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qo3_4LpeGs7seZfj8qqgyUF3YrUpk20MfnfYSCXmwg&u=https%3a%2f%2fen%2ewikipedia%2eorg%2fwiki%2fRacial%5fsegregation

Please forward all emails & discussions on record, as well as all research carried out by your Government and the Ministry of Health - including how a blanket race based prioritization system complies with New Zealand's obligations under local & international law.”

It appears you are asking the Ministry to comment on prioritisation of healthcare and Government decisions to change the healthcare system. While the Act enables people to request official information from the Ministry, it only applies to information it holds. There is no obligation to create information in order to respond to requests, nor is the Ministry obliged to provide an opinion. This query appears to be efforts to engage in a debate about the merits of the Government's decisions, rather than a legitimate request to the Ministry for official information. The Act does not support requests in which a requester quotes information and then seeks some form of comment on it, couched as a request for official information. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Allan', written in a cursive style.

Nick Allan
Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director-General