

29 September 2021

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C A

By email: fyi-request-16584-ef2e1f08@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202112040

Tēnā koe C A

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 31 August 2021 for information regarding COVID-19 vaccine, hospitalisations and deaths. I will respond to each part of your request in turn:

"1) Please can you provide me with the admission numbers to New Zealand hospitals for the last 5 years? 2016-2020, and the current year so far?"

The number of publicly funded hospital discharges for the last 5 years is below. Please note, I have provided data for discharges rather than admissions as events do not get reported until after discharge. Some hospital treatments may last years (such as long stay geriatric events) and consequently, it would be years before any of those admissions were reported. Please also note, the 2020 and 2021 data is considered incomplete as it takes a while for all the non-DHB hospitals' data to be reported, coded and loaded.

As of 13 September 2021:

Financial year	Number of publicly funded hospital discharges
2016/ 2017	1,210,564
2017/ 2018	1,228,860
2018/ 2019	1,249,381
2019/ 2020	1,192,595
2020/ 2021	1,240,420
2021/ 2022 (year to date)	179,046

2) Of those who died of any causes this year, how many had received any Covid-19 vaccine and how many were unvaccinated?"

An observed versus expected analysis will be published from Wednesday 29 September 2021 as part of the Medsafe weekly safety report. This analysis uses the observed number of deaths recorded in the mortality register for people vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. As the mortality collection operates several weeks in arrears, data will initially be up until the 30 June 2021 and updated monthly thereafter. This does not include people who may have received another COVID-19 vaccine overseas. The Ministry is not able to say with certainty whether anyone has not been vaccinated, as we may not have a record of their vaccination. For example, an individual may have received a vaccination overseas. We are therefore unable to provide information on deaths in unvaccinated people. This part of your request is refused

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.

3) Of those admitted to hospital in 2020, how many have received any covid-19 vaccine?"

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine became available in New Zealand in February 2021 which is after the period of interest; and the Ministry's hospitalisations data does not include information on whether an individual received a COVID-19 vaccine overseas. Therefore, this part of your request is refused 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 of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**