

10 July 2014

Mr Kevin McCready
<mailto:fyi-request-1749-e05a556f@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Mr McCready

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2014 requesting information in regards to acupuncture and chiropractic therapies funded by ACC.

Under ACC's legislation, acupuncturists and chiropractors are defined as treatment providers.

ACC is able to fund treatment, including acupuncture and chiropractic therapies for injuries if appropriate, and the client's health professional has made the referral. ACC relies on medical professionals to determine the best course of treatment for its clients, and it is obligated to ensure its decisions are in accordance with its governing legislation when making decisions on entitlements.

I will answer your questions in the order they were raised.

1. *what acupuncture and chiropractic "modalities" are funded and how these have been arrived at and other acupuncture and chiropractic modalities excluded?*

You can find this information on ACC's website acc.co.nz under the heading *ACC payment for services*. Accordingly your request for this information is declined under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available.

2. *upon what scientific evidence you continue to fund the modalities you fund, and*
3. *who are the experts on Acupuncture and Chiropractic that you consult for assessment of this scientific evidence.*

In 2011, ACC's research team conducted a literature review of the efficacy of acupuncture in the management of musculoskeletal pain. It found the most convincing evidence for the effectiveness of acupuncture related to the treatment of chronic neck pain and the improvement of pain and mobility in chronic shoulder pain. In terms of other injuries, evidence on the benefits of acupuncture was either inconclusive or insufficient.

ACC conducts evidence-based reviews of health technologies in order to inform health service purchasing and, where possible, uses evidence reported by other sources such as the Cochrane Library and the National Institute for Health and Excellence (NICE).

ACC will continue funding chiropractic and acupuncture treatments as there is a demand for the treatment, there is evidence that the treatments can be effective, and there are appropriately qualified healthcare professionals providing the treatments.

Please contact me at koleti.vae'au@acc.co.nz if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ke' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Koleti Vae'au (Mrs)
Team Manager, Government Services