

18 December 2014

Dr Morella Lascurain  
[fyi-request-2223-5e0eb31e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2223-5e0eb31e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Dr Lascurain

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request of 28 November 2014 under the Official Information Act 1982 for “the wording of the Treasury approved appropriation allocated towards the training of doctors who are employed as House Officers (PGYI and/or 2) by DHBs? In other words, what criteria determine the eligibility of medical graduates to receive that funding?”

The Appropriation (Estimates 2014/15) Act 2014<sup>1</sup> (the Act) is the official appropriation enacted by Parliament for government expenditure for that financial year. It prescribes the votes for over 50 government departments. It commenced on 31 July 2014 and the total Vote Health is \$15.5 billion.

There are several categories of non-departmental operating expenses in the 2014/15 Vote Health appropriations. They comprise most of the Vote, particularly funding through the 20 district health boards. One of those categories is for the purchase of national health services and to provide clinical training for health professionals. This category comprises nearly \$820 million (5.3 percent of the Vote).<sup>2</sup>

Of that amount, nearly \$174 million is appropriated for health workforce training and development. The line item reads:

This appropriation is limited to provision of clinical training for doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals and voluntary bonding schemes<sup>3</sup>

The more detailed description of the item, and what the specific funding is intended to achieve reads:

This appropriation is intended to achieve the following: the New Zealand health sector is supported to develop a sustainable, flexible, and fit-for-purpose workforce through the funding of clinical training and other initiatives.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1 - <http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0053/latest/DLM5944543.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/budget/2014/estimates/v6/est14-v6-health.pdf> [page 2]

<sup>3</sup> Page 6; and Schedule 1 of the Act item Health 6/5

<sup>4</sup> Pages 63 to 65

The criteria for allocating training funding, within the specific appropriation for health workforce training and development, is a policy decision. As you are aware from correspondence with Health Workforce New Zealand in 2013 and 2014, our policy is to fund postgraduate year 1 and 2 New Zealand government-funded medical graduates. Funding criteria for different health profession training is available on Health Workforce New Zealand's website.<sup>5</sup>

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G Benny', with a large loop at the end.

Dr Graeme Benny  
**Director**  
**Health Workforce New Zealand**

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-workforce?mega=Our%20work&title=Health%20workforce>