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5 October 2023

Mr T. Baker

By email: fyi-request-24089-5a4d9dd4@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023031571

Tēnā koe Mr T. Baker

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 10 September 2023 for information regarding the report titled *COVID-19 mortality in Aotearoa New Zealand: inequities in risk*. You requested:

"On 30 September 2022, the Ministry of Health released the report COVID-19 MORTALITY IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND: Inequities in Risk.

In the "Conclusion and next steps" section the following statements were made: "Monitoring and evaluation of indicators of health care access, uptake of therapeutics, vaccination and severe outcomes (for example, hospitalisation and mortality) following infection could also provide insight into related factors contributing to health inequity. Manatū Hauora will continue to analyse data on these indicators. It will undertake further exploration of vaccine effectiveness and is identifying options for reporting on disabilities in collaboration with partner agencies. The Public Health Agency will publish the results of future analyses." Further, in the Discussion section it was that "Manatū Hauora is planning a further analysis of vaccination as a separate report.

Please provide status of the further analysis of vaccine effectiveness, and where or when these analyses will be published."

Manatū Hauora has not yet completed the COVID-19 hospitalisation and vaccine effectiveness analysis. As such, this information is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. Upon completion of this work, by June 2024, it will be published on the Manatū Hauora website.

However, the analysis of the effectiveness of the vaccine, as discussed in the conclusion and next steps of the *COVID-19 Mortality in Aotearoa New Zealand: Inequities in Risk* report you have referenced and further exploration of vaccine effectiveness and identification of available options for reporting on disabilities is included in Manatū Hauora's publication of *COVID-19 Risk Among Disabled People*. This is a more recent analysis undertaken by the Public Health Agency, Manatū Hauora, regarding the burden of COVID-19 disease in the disabled population who receive Disability Support Services (DSS). This was released on 6

March 2023 and can be found on the Manatū Hauora website here:
www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-risk-among-disabled-people

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bell', is positioned above the typed name.

Ross Bell
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui