

20 March 2024

Simon Tegg
fyi-request-25594-4320ff17@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Simon

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00037131

Thank you for your email on 2 February 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

The budget bid Improving access to primary healthcare services to transgender people is now an operational programme of work managed by Health NZ.

In previous requests to the Ministry of Health (H2023019669) I discovered that the budget bid contained errors and received an admission of regret from Deputy Director General Maree Roberts.

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffullyinformed.nz%2Fassets%2Ffiles%2FH2023019669.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Chnzoia%40health.govt.nz%7C82487ace82fd4cfb907908dc22fd98ce%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C638423719805370299%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n4Yu7411%2BraKbql8%2BdzSWIoKfmVvPuxLPi%2BTY7WYOuw%3D&reserved=0>

The errors were:

- The budget bid overstated the number of transgender people (i.e the target population of the programme) in New Zealand by a factor of ~10.*
- The budget bid claimed that the primary care delivery of hormone therapy has the potential to reduce the need for future genital surgeries (and thus save money). However the citations for this claim did not support this.*

The second claim was repeated multiple times throughout the budget bid and Treasury subsequently gave the budget bid a rating of 4/5 for "value for money", 5/5 for "alignment", and 4/5 for "delivery". [Treasury document

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffullyinformed.nz%2Fassets%2Ffiles%2FDocuments%2520for%2520Release-2.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Chnzoia%40health.govt.nz%7C82487ace82fd4cfb907908dc22fd98ce%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C638423719805378595%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DLhfA4TZ5OQ7EKFAMZiwUVoRbsFpbLJBiDIMV4HvFaU%3D&reserved=0>

The government has changed so it is unclear if the programme would be so aligned with the current government's focus on economic efficiency and evidence. It is also unclear if Treasury would have given this bid a favorable "value for money" rating had Treasury known of its errors, and whether the programme would have been subsequently funded.

I assume that the programme is supported by a governance and/or advisory group and/or manager (hereafter "governance group") within Health NZ.

From Health NZ:

- I request the names of the members of the governance group, its working name, establishment date, and purpose.
- I request confirmation that the governance group has been advised of errors in the budget bid.
If confirmation can be provided, I request the content of that advice whether written or recalled by officials.

From Health NZ and the Ministry of Health:

- I request confirmation that Treasury has been advised of errors in the budget bid.
- I request confirmation that the current Minister, Dr Shane Reti, has been advised of errors in the budget bid.
If confirmation can be provided, I request the content of that advice whether written or recalled by officials.

From Health NZ:

- I request the contract details, reporting schedules, evaluation frameworks and any reports between Health NZ and the contractors regarding this programme.
- I request all other correspondence between Health NZ and contractors regarding this programme.

Response

I request the names of the members of the governance group, its working name, establishment date, and purpose.

The programme is overseen by the Gender-Affirming Primary Care Advisory Group (GAPCAG), which was established 21 March 2023.

The GAPCAG supports Health NZ by providing high-quality strategic advice to ensure that the programme meets Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and responsibilities, delivers equitable outcomes for Māori and Pacific peoples, and provides high-quality gender-affirming primary care.

This advice is used by Health NZ to inform, improve, and support programme activities and policy.

Information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- The details of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect their privacy. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals is not outweighed by the public interest in the release of this information.
- Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, it would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

I have considered the public interest in releasing the information. However, I do not consider that this public interest outweighs the harm identified above. I note that this is the third request asking for the names of individuals involved in this work. We are refusing this information for privacy reasons as we have done in all three of these responses. Please note that future requests for the same information may be refused on the basis that they are not made in good faith.

I request confirmation that the governance group has been advised of errors in the budget bid.

The GAPCAG has not been advised of the errors in the budget bid because the errors do not substantively affect the purpose, objectives, or accountabilities of the project.

I request the

- *contract details*
- *reporting schedules*
- *evaluation frameworks*
- *any reports between Health NZ and the contractors regarding this programme.*

Information within scope of this request is itemised in **Appendix 1** of this letter and copies of the documents are enclosed. The table in **Appendix 1** outlines the grounds under which I have decided to withhold information. Where information is withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Title	Provider	Reporting schedule	Reporting documents attached
Updating Guidelines for Gender-Affirming Care	Professional Association for Transgender Health Aotearoa Incorporated (PATHA)	3 monthly reporting	- PATHA Project Plan 22.11.2023
Auckland PHO Collective Community Driven Model of Care	Auckland PHO Limited	Quarterly reporting in the first year, 6 monthly in the following years	- Project Plan - Performance reporting
Waitaha Canterbury Community Driven Model of Care	Pegasus Health (Charitable) Limited	Quarterly reporting	- Project Plan 2023 2024
Qtopia Workforce Development – Gender-Affirming Primary Care	Q-topia Incorporated	Quarterly reporting in the first year, 6 monthly in the following years	- Performance reporting Jan 2024 - GAC Evaluation Framework
Gender-Affirming Primary Care – Evaluation of Community Driven Models of Care	Hemisphere Insight	6 monthly reporting	- Evaluation plan

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Deborah Woodley

Director Starting Well

Commissioning