

Corporate Services



OIA2018064

29 June 2018

Gloria Fraser

Via email: fyi-request-7894-0a741e80@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Fraser

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST

I refer to your request dated 22 May 2018 received at this office on 23 May 2018 requesting information on gender-affirming healthcare services provided by Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB).

You specifically asked the following questions:

1. *Please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by Hawke's Bay District Health Board for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:*
 - *Hormone therapy*
 - *Mastectomy*
 - *Hysterectomy*
 - *Orchidectomy*
 - *Facial hair removal*
 - *Breast augmentation*
 - *Voice training*
2. *Please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available?*
 - a) *Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services?*
 - b) *In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?*
 - c) *Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?*
3. *Please advise what the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but Hawke's Bay District Health Board does not offer this service?*
4. *Does Hawke's Bay District Health Board currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

Telephone 06 878 8109 Fax 06 878 1648 Email: ceo@hbdhb.govt.nz; www.hawkesbay.health.nz
Corporate Office, Cnr Omaha Road and McLeod Street, Private Bag 9014, Hastings 4156, New Zealand

In response to your questions; in sequential order:

1. The Hawke's Bay District Health Board does not provide tertiary level services, all patients seeking advice regarding gender transition would be supported through their local general practice to be referred to tertiary specialist and hospital services.
2. In response to questions 2A, 2B, 2C while these assessments do not necessarily fall within the remit of moderate to severe mental health the Child Adolescent and Family Service do provide a mental health assessment and will work in support of the endocrinologist in support of hormone therapy (up to and including the age of 19 years of age).
3. Once a person is confirmed transgender, then HBDHB provides hormone therapy through our local endocrinologist. Mastectomy, Hysterectomy, Orchiectomy and Breast augmentation would be completed in a private setting or overseas. Facial hair removal and voice training would also need to be accessed through private providers.
4. No, Hawke's Bay District Health Board does not currently fund patient travel to other areas to access this health care.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen, phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Snee
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz