

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

21 June 2018

Gloria Fraser

Via email: fyi-request-7920-934a4e28@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gloria

Official Information Act Request – Gender affirming healthcare services

On 23 May 2018 under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board:

Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Whanganui 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

Could you please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available?

- Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services?
- In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?
- Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?

What the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the Whanganui District Health Board does not offer this service? Does the Whanganui District Health Board currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?

The Whanganui District Health Board has used your questions in bold below and will respond to each one underneath, as follows:

Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Whanganui 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**

Please refer to responses Whanganui District Health Board has provided below.

Could you please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available?

- **Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services?**
- **In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?**
- **Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?**

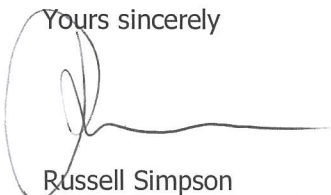
The Whanganui District Health Board does not provide tertiary level services, all patients seeking advice regarding gender transition would be supported through their local general practice to be referred to tertiary specialist and hospital services.

What the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the Whanganui District Health Board does not offer this service? Does the Whanganui District Health Board currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?

Whanganui District Health Board provides assistance for patients and their whānau in accordance with the New Zealand Health Travel Policy to access services outside of the WDHb health district.

Should you have any further queries, please contact Jeff Hammond, associate director of nursing, mental health/DAMHS, or our OIA co-ordinator: shonelle.fergusson@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive Officer