

Ms Sharyn Huirama
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Ref: H201900804

Dear Ms Huirama

Response to your request for information

I refer to your request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) of 21 February 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

- “1. The allocation of funding toward Asthma & Respiratory Health issues [only] for the financial periods 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, and anticipated for 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.*
- 2. The Statement of Intent to improve Asthma & Respiratory Health issues for the financial periods stated in para 1.*
- 3. Evidence of when the Ministry of Health raised Asthma & Respiratory Health issues before parliament.*
- 4. Full statistics demonstrating Maori over-representation in Asthma & Respiratory Health issues for the period 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, and 01 July 2018 to the present.”*

Responses to each part of your request are set out below.

- 1. The allocation of funding toward Asthma & Respiratory Health issues [only] for the financial periods 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, and anticipated for 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.*

As part of the Healthy Homes Initiatives (HHIs), the Ministry allocates funding across the 11 district health board (DHB) regions that have a high incidence of rheumatic fever. Although this funding was appropriated to support rheumatic fever prevention, the HHIs also contribute to improved asthma and respiratory health. Information about the HHIs can be found on the Ministry’s website (www.health.govt.nz).

Funding for the HHIs comes from two sources: the Rheumatic Fever Prevention Programme funding, and the HHIs Expansion funding.

The total Rheumatic Fever Prevention programme funding is \$5 million per annum. DHBs decide the proportion of their funding that is allocated to HHIs, and this amount can vary each year.

HHIs Expansion funding allocated to DHBs for services to be delivered to pregnant mothers and 0-5 year old children is:

- \$4.5 million from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018
- \$4.5 million from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
- Anticipated to be \$4.5 million from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Please note that PHARMAC is the Government agency that decides which pharmaceuticals will be publicly funded, including a range of medicines to manage asthma and respiratory diseases. You may wish to contact PHARMAC directly for further information about these.

2. *The Statement of Intent to improve Asthma & Respiratory Health issues for the financial periods stated in para 1.*

The Ministry's *Statement of Strategic Intentions 2017-2021* is publicly available on the Ministry's website (www.health.govt.nz). It does not, however, specifically mention asthma or respiratory health services.

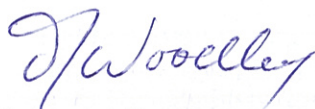
3. *Evidence of when the Ministry of Health raised Asthma & Respiratory Health issues before parliament.*

The Ministry's responsibility is to provide advice to Government through the Minister of Health, and Associate Ministers, rather than to Parliament directly. However, the Ministry does report annually to the Health Select Committee on its financial performance for the previous year. Attached is the Ministry's response to two questions from the 2017/18 review, that fall within the scope of this part of your request. The Ministry's full response is available from Parliament's website (www.parliament.nz/en/).

4. *Full statistics demonstrating Maori over-representation in Asthma & Respiratory Health issues for the period 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, and 01 July 2018 to the present.*

The Ministry publishes yearly statistics from the Health Survey on asthma, at national and regional levels. Maori are a specific group in these statistics. This information can be found by searching for the *Health Survey Data Explorer* on the Ministry's website, or at the following link: minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2016-17-annual-data-explorer/ w 1348149b/#!/explore-indicators.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
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Population Health and Prevention