

14 October 2020

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020127

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 17 September 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

Could you please advise whether the following gender –affirming health care services are funded by this DHB for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:

- ***Hormone therapy***
- ***Mastectomy***
- ***Hysterectomy***
- ***Orchiectomy***
- ***Facial hair removal***
- ***Breast augmentation***
- ***Voice training***

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

Hawke's Bay DHB provides two of the gender-affirming services noted above:

1. Hormone therapy (cross gender steroids) is available on referral to HBDHB's Endocrinology service.
2. Voice training is also available on referral.

Note: In addition a general practice–based GPSI service (General Practitioner with Special Interest in transgender health care) is run by a Hawke's Bay GP in collaboration with hospital-based services. All other gender-affirming services listed above are provided at tertiary level.

- ***Specifically, is an assessment required by a mental health professional required in order to access gender affirming healthcare services, if so what services?***

Yes, HBDHB's adult Community Mental Health and Addiction Service refer patients to appropriate vocationally trained psychotherapists or psychologists within the private sector in Hawke's Bay. This is in line with Ministry of Health guidelines "Gender Reassignment Health Services for Trans People within New Zealand, 2012" with regards to assessments.

Patients are then referred on to HBDHB or tertiary services for gender-affirming health care where appropriate.

- ***In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist?***

Primary health providers are able to prescribe hormone therapy, this does not require

referral from an endocrinologist.

- ***Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?***
Hawke's Bay DHB does not hold information relating to people accessing gender-affirming surgery as these services are not provided by the DHB.
- ***Could you please advise what the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the DHB does not offer this service?***
Patients are referred (see response to question 2) to other tertiary providers, following assessments. Some patients may also choose to self-refer to a private provider.
- ***Does the DHB currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?***
Hawke's Bay DHB funds patients eligible under the National Travel Assistance Policy, details regarding this policy are available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/hospitals-and-specialist-care/national-travel-assistance-scheme/national-travel-assistance-policy-and-guide>

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 Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

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