

Corporate Services



27 August 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021092

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 2 August 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. What is the DHB's policy regarding children in care being a. admitted to hospital and b. admitted to hospital in lieu of a care placement?***
- 2. Are children in care admitted to hospitals if placements cannot be found?***
- 3. How many children in care are currently in hospital in the DHB?***
- 4. Are there any children in care currently in hospital in the DHB?***
- 5. Please provide figures for the past 5 years showing the number of children in care admitted to a DHB hospital, length of stay and reason for being admitted to hospital.***

Hawke's Bay DHB does not have a specific policy for children in care being admitted to hospital and provides acute and outpatient medical services to all babies and children living within Hawkes Bay.

The living arrangements of the child (eg two parent, solo parent, shared parenting, whangaai adoption, formal adoption, foster placement, temporary respite care, formal care under OT) are largely irrelevant to the care provided. Hawke's Bay DHB would always ask as part of our social history, who the child is cared for by and by what sort of arrangement, but otherwise may not be aware a child is "in state care" until after the admission process.

In response to question two, children in care are not admitted to hospital if placements cannot be found.

In response to question three and four, there are currently no children in care in the Hawke's Bay DHB inpatient units.

In response to question five, Hawke's Bay DHB declines to answer this portion of your request under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to information not held.

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.

C H I E F E X E C U T I V E ' S O F F I C E
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Ash', written in a cursive style.

Chris Ash
Chief Operating Officer

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