

Corporate Services



1 October 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021110

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 3 September 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- ***Data showing immunisation rates for children at eight months of age, broken down by ethnic group, for each month in the past three years. Please provide this in a CSV or Excel spreadsheet format if possible.***

Please refer to the Ministry of Health website for National and DHB immunisation data which is captured and provided quarterly here: [National and DHB immunisation data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

- ***Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines possible reasons for a decline in vaccination rates among Māori and/or Pacific children.***
- ***Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines vaccine hesitancy, including in relation to the Covid-19 vaccines.***

The DHB prepared a draft working document to enable review of childhood immunisations. This document is still in its provisional stages. Therefore, under sections 9(2)(g)(i) (free and frank opinions) and 9(2)(ba) (confidentiality) the DHB declines to provide this document in its draft form at this time.

Hawke's Bay DHB can, however, share in brief some possible reasons around decline rates in 2020/2021. Reasons may include:

- COVID-19 2020 and 2021 outbreaks/lockdowns and hesitancy to continue with routine follow-up appointments with GPs/pharmacy during these time periods.
- Barriers such as access to GPs (new enrolments), follow-up lapses and/or travel barriers.

In relation to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, Hawke's Bay District Health Board is aligned to Ministry of Health messaging, which can be found here: <https://www.theworkshop.org.nz/publications/how-to-talk-about-covid-19-vaccinations-building-trust-in-vaccination-a-guide-2021>

Additionally, Hawke's Bay DHB has taken a collaborative approach to vaccine hesitancy from the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The DHB is working closely with many groups and

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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organisations including; the port, councils, primary care, businesses, Māori health providers, Iwi, the not-for-profit sector and others to provide educational support from trusted health professionals, and convenient access to accurate and reliable information.

- ***High-level correspondence in 2021 with senior executives from other DHBs in relation to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.***

Hawke's Bay DHB has not received or sent high level correspondence in relation to the above question to other DHBs. Therefore, under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act your request is declined due to information not held.

- ***High-level correspondence in 2021 between the DHB and Ministry of Health relating to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.***

Please refer to the attached documents from the Ministry of Health addressed to Hawke's Bay DHB's Chief Executive and Ministry of Health to all DHBs.

- ***Data showing the number of staff involved in childhood vaccinations for each month in 2021.***

*Note: The majority of childhood vaccinations are provided within primary care settings such as GP clinics and pharmacy. However, the number of DHB staff involved in supporting childhood vaccinations in outreach clinics are as follows:

- January, February and March 2021 = 9 staff.
- April and May 2021 = 8 staff
- June, July, August and September = 7 staff.

**The slight decline reflects redeployment and back-fill gaps to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.*

- ***Data showing the number of staff who were moved from childhood vaccinations to the Covid-19 response at any time in 2021.***

A total of seven staff have been redeployed to the COVID-19 vaccination rollout during 2021. When a staff member is redeployed to the COVID response team from the Immunisation team, the vacant position is back-filled by another staff member usually within the DHB.

- ***Details of any recovery or action plan created in 2021 to improve the rates of childhood immunisation and reduce decline rates for Māori and/or Pacific children.***

The DHB has prepared a draft plan which is in its preliminary stages. Therefore under sections 9(2)(g)(i) (free and frank opinions) and 9(2)(ba) (confidentiality) the DHB declines to provide this document in its draft form at this time.

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



Patrick Le Geyt

Executive Director – Health Improvement and Equity

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