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20 September 2023

Ron Yu

By email: fyi-request-23476-30af1ee4@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023031564

Tēnā koe Ron

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) from Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand on 13 September 2023 for information regarding male life expectancy. You requested:

“Males have a lower life expectancy than females, and the health minister has promised equitable health outcomes. Please provide any advice to the Minister, Ministry of Health or internally that discuss options for improving Male life expectancy through equity adjustment”

No specific documents on options for improving male life expectancy through equity adjustment were identified. However, to assist your query I have provided information below about work that is underway across the health system that seeks to improve health outcomes for all New Zealanders including males.

Manatū Hauora recently developed a suite of six strategies required by the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022. These strategies are for all New Zealanders, with the New Zealand Health Strategy setting a whole of population direction alongside the Hauora Māori Strategy and targeted strategies for Pacific health, health of disabled people, women’s health, and rural health. This will inform the next Government Policy Statement on Health and New Zealand Health Plan (Te Pae Tata).

Further information on the Pae Ora Strategies and the interim Government Policy Statement on Health and the interim Te Pae Tata can be found below:

- www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/pae-ora-healthy-futures-all-new-zealanders/pae-ora-strategies
- www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/whats-happening/what-to-expect/nz-health-plan/
- www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/new-health-and-disability-system/interim-government-policy-statement

We note your point around health differences between men and women. While women have a longer life expectancy than men, women are more likely to spend these years in poorer health and disability. You can view data on health expectancy and time spent in poor health in the Health and Independence Report 2022, which is publicly available here:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/health-and-independence-report-2022>

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Steve Barnes
Group Manager
Family and Community Health Policy
Strategy Policy and Legislation | Te Pou Rautaki