

- 1 JUN 2018

P. Lamborn

Email: fyi-request-7903-0278be33@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear P.Lamborn,

Thank you for your request dated 23/5/18 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding gender dysphoria services. You requested:

"Dear Hutt District Health Board,

In 2015 the Ministry of Health released a series of documents as part of an OIA by A. D. Tait <<https://fyi.org.nz/request/3188-2003-review-of-gender-dysphoria-services>>, which included notes from a meeting of clinicians held on 30 April 2003. In these notes it is stated that:

Hutt Valley Health has 2 endocrinologists providing some service [in this area] and there are occasional psychiatric assessments both as part of transgender evaluation and management of other psychiatric issues for Hutt patients."

Please confirm, to the best of your abilities given the time elapsed, that the above quote was an accurate assessment of the situation in the Hutt Valley at the time.

It is generally understood that, at this moment in time, the HVDHB sends patients to CCDHB for transgender-related endocrinology services and does not provide these services itself. Please confirm that this is the case, and:

a. When the situation changed from that described in 2003 b. What the reasons for this change were c. Whether any reviews of this service and the appropriateness of outsourcing it to CCDHB have been conducted, and their results d. What, if any, HVDHB's plans are for the future of this service"

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

Hutt Valley Health has 2 endocrinologists providing some service [in this area] and there are occasional psychiatric assessments both as part of transgender evaluation and management of other psychiatric issues for Hutt patients. Please confirm, to the best of your abilities given the time elapsed, that the above quote was an accurate assessment of the situation in the Hutt Valley at the time.

As far as I can ascertain, the quote is an accurate assessment of the situation in the Hutt Valley at that time in that we had 2 endocrinologists at Hutt Valley DHB. As I understand it, most transgender clients from around the region were seen at CCDHB at that time.

Question 2a

It is generally understood that, at this moment in time, the HVDHB sends patients to CCDHB for transgender-related endocrinology services and does not provide these services itself. Please confirm that this is the case, and:

a. When the situation changed from that described in 2003

Hutt Valley DHB Endocrinologists do see patients domiciled in the Hutt Valley at Hutt hospital and have done so for the past 2-3 years.

Question 2b

What the reasons for this change were

This was for a number of reasons including increased referrals from across the region and the retirement of a previous endocrinologist who was doing all transgender work.

Question 2c

Whether any reviews of this service and the appropriateness of outsourcing it to CCDHB have been conducted, and their results

No reviews have taken place as we have not outsourced this service to CCDHB over the last 2-3 years.

Question 2d

What, if any, HVDHB's plans are for the future of this service

The endocrinology service at HVDHB will continue to see transgender clients for the commencement and initial supervision of gender affirming hormonal therapy, but will look to discharge clients back to their GP for longer term follow up. We are not involved in other aspects of transgender care including primary care health and surgical procedures. As a regional service we are looking to support gender affirming hormonal therapy being commenced in primary care without input from the endocrinology service whenever this is appropriate, and there are efforts currently to progress towards this.

I trust this information fulfils your request.

You have the right to seek a review, under section 28(3) of the Act, by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Dale Oliff
Acting Chief Executive
Hutt Valley District Health Board