

15 March 2021



Tanya
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Via email: fyi-request-14664-5c4bda48@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Tanya

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13359 Cancer Treatment in Whanganui

On 11 February 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Can you please provide the following:

1. Is the DHB funded to provide services to cancer patients in Whanganui? If so, please provide details of the funding received, which services it funds, and how it is distributed.
2. What services do you provide for cancer patients in Whanganui?
3. How many of those services can be provided at the hospital in Whanganui and how many can only be provided at other hospitals? Please name those hospitals.
4. Under what circumstances are cancer patients referred to other hospitals? How many patients have been referred to other hospitals (for the last 10 years)?
5. The number of patients known to the DHB that require treatment for cancer, broken down by cancer type (for the last 10 years). Please also identify which hospital they are being treated at.
6. Any reports, internal memos, Memorandums of Understanding, and communications the DHB has that relate to cancer services being provided at sites other than the Whanganui hospital.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

1. **Is the DHB funded to provide services to cancer patients in Whanganui? If so, please provide details of the funding received, which services it funds and how it is distributed.**
Whanganui District Health Board is funded to provide health services to the population of the DHB through the Population Based Funding Formula determined by the Ministry of Health. Under this methodology we are not funded for specific health conditions, such as cancer, rather to provide health services as required by our population, dependant on health needs. Funding for care of patients with cancer is integrated into overall funding for services.
2. **What services do you provide for cancer patients in Whanganui?**
Whanganui District Health Board provides a full range of cancer treatment services through Whanganui Hospital, the Central Regional Cancer Treatment Service based at MidCentral DHB and the Wellington Regional Cancer Treatment Services based at Capital and Coast DHB, with other services used where required for specific treatments. Paediatric cancer services are provided through Starship Hospital. This includes diagnostics, specialist medical appointments, systemic therapies, radiotherapy and surgery. We also have cancer nurse specialists supporting patients on their cancer pathway.

3. How many of those services can be provided at the hospital in Whanganui and how many can only be provided at other hospitals? Please name those hospitals.

Services provided in Whanganui include some surgical interventions, outpatient appointments and follow up appointments. The majority of our treatment services are provided by the specialist cancer treatment services at MidCentral District Health Board and Capital and Coast District Health Board. As above paediatric services are provided through Auckland District Health Board and the Starship Hospital.

4. Under what circumstances are cancer patients referred to other hospitals? How many patients have been referred to other hospitals (for the last 10 years)?

Patients are referred to other hospitals where the specialist services required for their cancer treatment are not provided at Whanganui Hospital. This includes specific diagnostics including PET scanning, systemic therapies, radiotherapy and surgical interventions.

While we capture referrals to other services in individual patient files, we do not hold data on the total number of referrals to other hospitals over time.

5. The number of patients known to the DHB that require treatment for cancer, broken down by cancer type (for the last 10 years). Please also identify which hospital they are being treated at.

Whanganui DHB have only been collecting this specific data since late 2014. Information for the complete calendar years 2015-2020 is attached at appendix one.

6. Any reports, internal memos, Memorandums of Understanding, and communications the DHB has that relate to cancer services being provided at sites other than the Whanganui hospital.

Provision of cancer treatment services across DHB boundaries is business as usual for the Whanganui District Health Board and the Regional Cancer Treatment Services, and has been provided in this way historically. As such there are a large number of documents relating to the provision of these services in general and over many years. We may be able to provide further assistance in this area if there are specific areas or time periods that require a response.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive

Appendix One

Tumour Stream	Initial Treatment	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
DHB							
Brain / Central nervous system	Capital & Coast	3		2	3	3	5
	Midcentral		1		1	1	
	Whanganui	1	2		3	1	1
Brain / Central nervous system Total		4	3	2	7	5	6
Breast	Capital & Coast		2				
	Counties Manukau				1		
	Hutt						1
	Midcentral	1	1	2	3	7	3
	Whanganui	44	34	34	57	51	66
Breast Total		45	37	36	61	58	70
Gynaecological	Capital & Coast	6	7	6	5	16	11
	Midcentral	3	4	3	4	3	4
	Whanganui	1	8	11	6	8	4
Gynaecological Total		10	19	20	15	27	19
Haematological	Midcentral	11	9	7	9	11	18
	Waikato		1				
	Whanganui	5	7	7	4	4	7
Haematological Total		16	17	14	13	15	25
Head and neck	Auckland			1			
	Hutt				2		1
	Midcentral	3	4	4	6	4	1
	Whanganui	9	5	4	8	7	11
Head and neck Total		12	9	9	16	11	13
Lower gastrointestinal	Capital & Coast			1		1	
	Midcentral	6	20	8	9	12	14
	Waikato	1	3				
	Whanganui	36	42	37	34	39	63
Lower gastrointestinal Total		43	65	46	43	52	77
Lung	Auckland			1			
	Capital & Coast	4		7	1	2	3
	Midcentral	15	14	24	20	17	22
	Whanganui	14	19	12	21	17	11
Lung Total		33	33	44	42	36	36
Other	Hutt				1		
	Midcentral	4	5	2	4	1	5
	Whanganui	4	4	6	4	3	5
Other Total		8	9	8	9	4	10
Sarcoma	Auckland	1	1		1	1	
	Capital & Coast		1				
	Midcentral	2		2	4	3	4
	Whanganui		3	1	1	2	
Sarcoma Total		3	5	3	6	6	4
Skin	Auckland		1				
	Capital & Coast			1			
	Hutt	1	2		1	1	1
	Midcentral		1	1	2	3	
	Whanganui	22	48	29	28	23	42
Skin Total		23	52	31	31	27	43
Upper gastrointestinal	Auckland	1			2	1	1
	Canterbury				1		
	Capital & Coast		1		1	2	1
	Midcentral	5	11	7	5	15	12
	Waikato				1		
	Whanganui	10	21	12	14	9	17
Upper gastrointestinal Total		16	33	19	24	27	31
Urological	Auckland	1		1			
	Capital & Coast	2			2		1
	Midcentral	21	32	30	32	40	48
	Whanganui	50	47	38	54	36	76
Urological Total		74	79	69	88	76	125
Grand Total		287	361	301	355	344	459