

5 February 2020

Dr Sally Mackay
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Via email: sally.mackay@auckland.ac.nz

Dear Dr Mackay

Official Information Act Request – Population nutrition promotion budget

On 10 January 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

The Food Environments Policy Index (Food-EPI), assesses the New Zealand Government's level of implementation of policies and infrastructure support against international best practice for improving the healthiness of food environments (<https://www.informas.org/food-epi/>). The Food-EPI is an initiative of INFORMAS (International Network for Food and Obesity / NCDs Research, Monitoring and Action Support). Food-EPI has been conducted twice in New Zealand, firstly in 2014 with an Expert Panel of over 50 independent public health experts and representatives from medical associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and secondly in 2017 with an Expert Panel of 70.

The Expert Panels rated the extent of implementation of policies on food environments and infrastructure support systems by the New Zealand Government against international best practice. They also identified and prioritised actions needed to address critical gaps in government policies and infrastructure support.

We are repeating the Food-EPI in February-March 2020 to assess progress ahead of the 2020 general election. Currently we are updating the evidence report that outlines policies and actions undertaken by the New Zealand Government since the 2017 Food-EPI (April 2017- Dec 2020) for each domain. The evidence report will be used to rate progress of the NZ Government against international best practice and derive key priority actions for the New Zealand government. We will hold rating workshops with public health experts in March.

Amongst other issues, we are trying to get an overview on the annual government budget for "**population nutrition promotion**", which is defined as "the investments in population promotion of healthy eating and healthy food environments for the prevention of obesity and diet-related NCDs, *excluding* all one-on-one promotion (primary care, antenatal services, maternal and child nursing services etc.), food safety, micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. folate fortification) and undernutrition". We are also contacting the Ministry of Health and the Health Promotion Agency for information on their population nutrition promotion budgets.

If possible, we would like to get an estimate of **your DHB budget for population nutrition promotion (as per definition above) over the last 3 years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20)**. It would be helpful if you could clarify how much of this budget is transferred to PHUs and/or PHOs. I realise that sometimes it is difficult to separate nutrition promotion from other health promotion activities such as physical activity.

Please contact me if you need more specific information on what is required.

Whanganui District Health Board's response:

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	External providers – Budget	Internal – Budget
2017/18	261,570	107,000
2018/19	284,801	107,000
2019/20	167,965	107,000

2017/18 underspent due to obesity strategy not contracted out.

2018/19 underspent due to obesity strategy not contracted out until later part of financial year.

Please note that this is directly targeted nutrition funding, healthy lifestyles are promoted through a number of other external and internal contracts.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Deanne Holden at deanne.holden@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Paul Malan
Acting Chief Executive