

Clinical : Prevention/ Treatment Skin Cancers  
Proactive Release : 09 January 2020

19 December 2019

9(2)(a)

E-mail: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 02 December 2019, by way of a partial transfer of your request to the Ministry of Health, under section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information:

- 1. How much is spent on skin cancer prevention, on an annual basis, over the last ten years?**
- 2. Number of people suffering skin cancer, or undergone skin cancer treatment in NZ per year, over the last 10 years. If you have a population breakdown, on a regional basis.**
- 3. Costs of any advertising campaigns run by the MOH or DHBs over the last 10 years.**

Please refer below for information held by Counties Manukau DHB for our community. For context, CM Health Services provide health and support services to more than 569,400 people residing in South Auckland, both in hospitals and community settings, along with some regional specialist services.

We are providing details of CM Health delivered services, including cases completed for other DHBs by our services, but note that there is also considerable use of our partner services in primary care and by NGO providers to promote safe sun messages, and increasingly to identify, treat and support people with skin cancers in primary care settings rather than via admissions at hospital.

We note that information of this nature on health service resources should be interpreted with caution. Given the differences in DHB population sizes, demographics and the range of services and facilities available, comparisons between DHBs may also be misleading.

#### **1. How much is spent on skin cancer prevention, on an annual basis, over the last ten years?**

Skin cancer prevention programmes are not directly managed through District Health Boards. Therefore, CM Health does not directly allocate funding to skin cancer prevention. National campaigns are co-ordinated by a number of agencies, and we do seasonally share these messages with our

communities, via our media channels. Information for the public and service providers on prevention and services is available at these websites:

- SunSmart <https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/>
- Health Promotion Agency <https://www.hpa.org.nz/programme/skin-cancer-prevention>
- Health Navigator <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/s/skin-cancer/>

**2. Number of people suffering skin cancer, or undergone skin cancer treatment in NZ per year, over the last 10 years. If you have a population breakdown, on a regional basis.**

We are not aware of any work completed for us that sought to estimate skin cancer prevalence in our communities. Population health data related to cancers is available on the MoH website:

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/cancer-data-and-stats>

Melanoma is a notifiable cancer, and therefore those cases are reported per year by DHB domicile, and this information is held by the Ministry of Health. The most current reporting is publicly available, at the link above, but other lesion types (BCCs and SCCs) are not notified, and we do not collate data regarding the prevalence of these.

While we cannot provide data on the total number of people diagnosed per year, we can provide data on the annual numbers of skin lesions surgically removed at CM Health delivered services, including cases completed by CM Health for other DHBs (**Table 1**).

The separate Purchase Unit code (PUC) coding of this procedure was first introduced in financial year 2011/12, so prior to this we cannot accurately isolate such cases in the data.

We note this data only captures cases of lesion removal, and not any other means of treatment, or treatment by non-DHB providers. Many small skin cancers can be removed by general practitioners, as well as at skin lesions clinics, and we do not collect diagnostic data for this work.

**Details for cases treated by CM Health (mainly as day procedures)**

- **PUC code:** *MS02016*
- **PUC description:** *Skin lesions*
- **Time period:** *from 01/07/2011 - 30/06/2019*

Financial Year	Counties Manukau DHB	Auckland DHB	Waitemata DHB	Others	Total
2011/2012	1,389	50	24	16	1,479
2012/2013	1,596	59	32	15	1,702
2013/2014	1,863	67	42	18	1,990
2014/2015	1,720	43	32	11	1,806
2015/2016	2,082	54	38	14	2,188

Financial Year	Counties Manukau DHB	Auckland DHB	Waitemata DHB	Others	Total
2016/2017	2,263	53	53	9	2,378
2017/2018	2,164	57	57	10	2,288
2018/2019	1,273	30	35	5	1,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,350</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>15,174</b>

**Table 1**

**3. Costs of any advertising campaigns run by the MOH or DHBs over the last 10 years.**

We infer you mean advertising campaigns run by the DHB over the last ten years related to skin cancer treatment. See response to question 1 above.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
 Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**

