

Clinical : Women's Health  
Proactive Release : 26 September 2019

12 September 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 transfer from the Department of Internal Affairs, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act, on 16 August 2019.

You requested the following information:

- **Please provide all information from the last three years (2017, 2018, and 2019) regarding the number of women in New Zealand who have undergone gender affirmation surgery and have delivered a baby, as a man, after the gender reaffirmation surgery.**

We are unable to provide this data, as we do not capture details as to partial or complete gender transition status linked to birthing events in our clinical coding systems.

While this information may have been noted by a clinician in an individual's hard-copy medical files, searching all of those for these exceptional cases would be a considerable effort, given that there are more than 7,000 births per year in Counties Manukau Health facilities, and that does not include any cases of a birth occurring in other locations.

In addition, information of this type holds very high privacy interests and on balance, we do not believe that any public interest in this information outweighs that right to privacy, especially because to confirm any such details, and enable individual consent for release of the information would necessitate us diverting public health employees from other operational priorities.

Therefore, we are declining your request under Section 18(g) of the Act – as information is not held by the DHB, and we have no grounds for believing that the information held by another department.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish above the name.

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