

27th April 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Midwives

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 16th April 2021, you requested the following information:

1. **How many midwives are currently employed by the DHB?**
2. **Both those that are employed to provide 24-hour, rostered shift cover in a maternity facility, and those that are employed to a continuity of care please.**
3. **How many current vacancies are there for midwives at the DHB?**
4. **Is there an adequate amount of self-employed LMC's (Lead Maternity Carers) within your district?**
5. **Is there a growing need for more midwives within the DHB?**
6. **Any other general comments surrounding midwifery that might be helpful to us!**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

1. **How many midwives are currently employed by the DHB?**

CM Health has 243 midwives, including relief midwifery bureau, community and primary birthing facility midwives.

2. **Both those that are employed to provide 24-hour, rostered shift cover in a maternity facility, and those that are employed to a continuity of care please.**

Maternity Facilities = 186 (includes bureau)

Community (providing either antenatal/postnatal continuity or full continuity) = 49

Note: - Some midwives work in both settings.

- The remainder are in senior midwifery roles such as education, research and quality.

3. How many current vacancies are there for midwives at the DHB?

The current budgeted midwifery vacancy rate is 47 FTE; however bureau fill approximately 11 FTE and an over appointment of registered nurse fill another 14 FTE in the postnatal areas.

4. Is there an adequate amount of self-employed LMC's (Lead Maternity Carers) within your district?

We have 177 midwives with access agreements with CM Health; however only 112 practice as self-employed community LMC midwives. Caseloads can vary from 1 to > 60 per year.

In 2020, 8195 CM Health resident women gave birth. Ideally 90% should have a self-employed LMC (SELMC) to provide the majority of their care. Therefore, if every SELMC carried the recommended case load of 40-60 women per annum, we need approximately 147 full time LMCs in our region to provide the continuity model for CM Health residing women.

5. Is there a growing need for more midwives within the DHB?

Yes, there is a growing need; as we look to fill our vacancies and expand our services for our growing population (2.7% increase since 2015).

6. Any other general comments surrounding midwifery that might be helpful to us!

We have a continuous recruitment campaign to increase our midwifery workforce including offering a comprehensive New Zealand graduate programme as well as engaging with overseas trained midwives looking to immigrate to New Zealand.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health