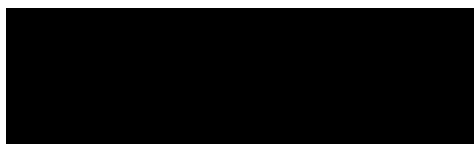


12 October 2022



Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Te Whatu Ora Taranaki to your email of 3 October 2022. You have asked the following:

Please see the image below, which is a clipping from the web site of Fluoride Free NZ.

This shows data for New Plymouth (orange dots) compared with aggregated data for Stratford and Hawera (blue dots) for the years 2011 to 2017. The accompanying text identifies the source of the data as “official data obtained from the (former) Taranaki DHB”. The text also makes it clear that the start date for the supplied data went back to at least 2009, included statistics for 5-year-olds, and other data such as caries-free rates.

I assumed “official data” meant an OIA response, but have looked through the list of OIA responses and in the Document Library without success.

If in fact the data was in an OIA response, please could you supply me with it. Note that I am asking only for the data, not for the OIA response itself, though if you prefer to supply this, that would be fine.

Te Whatu Ora Taranaki can confirm a number of OIA requests made with regards to stats re DMFT and we have enclosed the data for your information.

Please note:

- Where there are 2 or less Maori/pacific islander children statistics, these have been combined together where possible
- Te Whatu Ora Taranaki (previously know as Taranaki District Health Board) changed software used to collate this data and experienced data integrity concerns during 2010, because of this the data is likely flawed and has not been included.
- Te Whatu Ora Taranaki include DMFT at examination, not after cessation

I take note of your point that school location may not be the same as the location of the dental treatments. The more general question is the proportions of treatments carried out by the Community Oral Health Service and by private dentists. This would tend to blur the statistics as different diagnostic standards could exist. Do you have any information or opinion on this? I have seen mention that in earlier years such differences did exist.

Te Whatu Ora Taranaki only has access to Community Oral Health’s data and we are unable to comment about treatments provided by dentists in the private sector.

Continued...

However feedback from clinical staff at Te Whatu Ora based on their knowledge is that each private oral health practitioner offers treatment and advice commensurate with their training, knowledge, expertise, and the information they are presented with. This means it would be possible for one practitioner to see a patient, review the radiographs and information and offer a set of management options, whilst another practitioner may see the same patient and offer slightly different clinical options, which are still clinically acceptable.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Te Whatu Ora Taranaki (www.tdhb.org.nz) website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. Te Whatu Ora Taranaki will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

Yours sincerely



Katy Sheffield
Acting Chief Operating Officer
Taranaki District

Enc.

