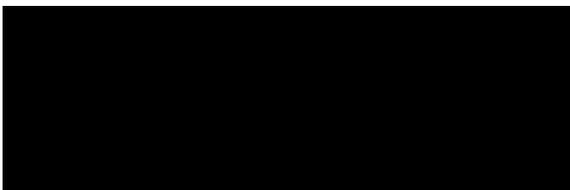


3 May 2022



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 7 April 2022. You have requested the following information:

Would you please advise:

- *whether you do provide services for people who stutter?*
- *If you do provide services for people who stutter, would you please advise:*
 - *how many people who stutter that you have worked with in the last year including a breakdown of their ages and ethnicities*
 - *the type of services that you provided, e.g. individual speech therapy, group programmes*
 - *the number of sessions of individual speech therapy you provided in the last year*
 - *the number of any other programmes etc that you offered and the number of participants in these programmes.*

While Taranaki DHB cannot respond specifically to the above request, we can provide the following information:

- Adult service: over the last twelve months there have been no instances of any adults who developed dysfluency in childhood being referred to our services. However, we do not generally accept referrals for people who have developmental communication difficulties, unless there have been acute changes.
- We have seen six patients who have developed an acquired dysfluency as part of their communication difficulties following a stroke or as a consequence of a degenerative neurological condition such as Parkinson's disease. This would co-occur with dyspraxia; aphasia or dysarthria. Five patients were seen on the wards as an inpatient and one was seen as a community patient. Ages 63, 66, 66, 80, 82 and 95. Ethnicities of five were NZ European and one was European other as per IBA.
- We provided ward based programmes and advice, and would have included therapy input on all aspects of communication and swallowing affected by stroke or neurological disease. Most patients appear to have only required around two inpatient visits but one patient who had a left middle cerebral artery stroke had ten inpatient follow up visits and further follow up at ICATT and is due to attend a communication group for patients post stroke.

Continued...

- Paediatric service – these patients are referred to Ministry of Education.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Sheffield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Katy Sheffield

Chief Operating Officer (acting)