



14 September 2021

Andrea Harris for Shane Reti MP

Via Email: [Andrea.Harris@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Andrea.Harris@parliament.govt.nz) and [Shane.Reti@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Shane.Reti@parliament.govt.nz)

### **Response to a request for official information**

Dear Andrea

Thank you for your request for official information received 10 August 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by clarification sought 13 August 2021 and the necessary extension of time 10 September 2021, where you seek the following oncology information.

- 1. The utilisation rate for, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, expressed as a. patients per chair per day (plus definition of a chair day)**

Response: Please see Table One, by Financial Year (FY) since 1 July 2016, and patients per Chair per Day 08:30 – 16:00 hours.

**TABLE ONE**

FY	Patients per Chair per Day
2016/17	1.3
2017/18	1.4
2018/19	1.4
2019/20	1.4
2020/21	1.4

**Note:** COVID-19 impacted on our IV chemotherapy delivery of services during 2020/21

- b. occupancy expressed as percentage of time on average that a chemo chair is occupied, annually for the past 5 years**

Response: Chair occupancy is not collected, as such, we decline to respond under section 18(e)- 'the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.'

- 2. Average waiting time for first treatment of, outpatient or day stay attendance for day stay IV chemotherapy, expressed in days per year for the past 5 years**

Response: Please see Table Two on the following page.

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

**TABLE TWO**

FY	Days per Year
2016/17	8.9
2017/18	9.3
2018/19	12.0
2019/20	6.3
2020/21	5.2

**3. Number of, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, nursing staff expressed as FTEs annually for the past 5 years in absolute numbers and then per capita**

NMH response: Please see Table Three.

**TABLE THREE**

FY	Oncology Nurse FTE	Population*	Oncology Nurses per 1000 population
2016/17	3.20	147,060	0.022
2017/18	3.20	148,370	0.022
2018/19	3.20	149,730	0.021
2019/20	3.20	150,990	0.021
2020/21	3.80	152,080	0.025

\* Source – Stats NZ

**4. Number of oncologists managing, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, expressed as FTEs annually for the past 5 years in absolute numbers and then per capita**

NMH response: Please see Table Four. A Nurse Practitioner, 0.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) introduced in July 2019, also manages patients receiving IV chemotherapy.

**TABLE FOUR**

FY	Medical Oncologist FTE	Population	Medical Oncologists per 1000 population
2016/17	2.4	147,060	0.016
2017/18	2.4	148,370	0.016
2018/19	2.4	149,730	0.016
2019/20	3.2	150,990	0.021*
2020/21	3.2	152,080	0.021*

\* Inclusive of Nurse Practitioner

**5. Number of people who have had, outpatient or day stay attendance IV chemotherapy, expressed as total, Maori (absolute and as a percentage of the total) and Non Maori (absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total), annually for the past 5 years**

Response: Please see Tables Five and Six, by ethnicity groups 'Maori' and 'Other'.

**TABLE FIVE– TOTAL**

FY	Maori	Other	Total
2016/17	22	386	408
2017/18	25	384	409
2018/19	17	313	330
2019/20	20	365	385
2020/21	17	411	428

**Note:** Number of individuals, not attendances

**TABLE SIX– PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL**

FY	Maori	Other	Total
2016/17	5.4%	94.6%	100%
2017/18	6.1%	93.9%	100%
2018/19	5.2%	94.8%	100%
2019/20	5.2%	94.8%	100%
2020/21	4.0%	96.0%	100%

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator [OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz) I trust that this information meets your requirements.

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Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**