

19 December 2019

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information received 26 November 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek information on Chronic (Community-based) Pain services:

1. *Are chronic pain services separately funded by the DHB? If so, please provide data on:*
 - a) *budgeted and actual expenditure in 2017/18 and 2018/19*

TABLE 1

	Budget	Expenditure
2017-18	\$212,024	\$212,024
2018-19	\$222,335	\$222,335

- b) *number of pain specialists/consultants employed by the DHB*

NMH does not utilise a pain specialist workforce; please refer to our response for Part (e).

- c) *number of patients (both non-ACC and ACC patients) who received services in 2017/18 and 2018/19*

TABLE 2

	Patients – Chronic Pain service
2017-18	239
2018-19	249

NOTE: Chronic pain services do not see ACC clients

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

d) average waiting times for an appointment following referral from a GP, or other health practitioner

TABLE 3

	Average wait time – Chronic Pain service
NELSON	6 – 8 weeks
MARLBOROUGH	16.9 days – First contact 33.1 days – First appointment

e) makeup and dedicated FTE of the multidisciplinary team workforce.

NMH contracts with the expectation that the service utilises a multidisciplinary workforce.

2. What steps is the DHB taking to improve chronic pain services?

Both Nelson and Marlborough Primary Health Organisations work closely with the DHB as part of a multidisciplinary team approach to the management of chronic pain services for the region.

Chronic pain services undertake monitoring of their services, including functional assessments and psychological perception to, or experience of, pain so as to assist service development.

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 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

I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

Jane Kinsey
Acting Chief Executive

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz