



12 February 2021

[Redacted]
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Via Email: [Redacted]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request for official information received 11 January 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹ where you seek the following information.

Breastfeeding Support Services

- 1. Number of FTE lactation consultants in the hospital(s)**
- 2. Number of FTE lactation consultants in the community**

NMH response:

- Wairau (Blenheim) Hospital = 0.35 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Lactation Consultant across hospital and community
- Nelson Hospital = 0.6 FTE Lactation Consultant, contracted via the PHO, across hospital and community.

- 3. Age of baby at which this funded support becomes unavailable**

NMH response: There is no age limit for referral.

Tongue Tie Services

- 4. Is there a dedicated tongue tie clinic for outpatient babies?**
- 5. Is there a formal inpatient service?/What would the inpatient service entail?**

NMH response: Referral pathways are available for babies to quickly access Tongue Tie assessment and diagnostic treatment.

- 6. Are these services fully funded by the DHB?**

NMH response: Yes.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

7. How many hours a week are they available?

NMH response: The services are available Monday to Friday, as required.

8. Who runs them?

NMH response: A mix of Lactation Consultants, Paediatricians and the ENT team.

9. Up to what age of the baby are they available?

NMH response: There is no age limit to access services.

10. Is there a waiting list?/Approx. how long would the patient have to wait for the service?

NMH response:

- Breastfeeding babies are graded as urgent, and are seen within 1 – 2 weeks
- Older children are graded as semi-urgent, and are seen within 3 – 4 months.

ENT Service

11. Is the ENT service fully funded by the DHB?

NMH response: Yes.

12. If so, is there an age limit for this?

NMH response: There is no age limit to access services.

13. Is there a set number of hours allocated to be available for tongue tie services each week?

NMH response:

Tongue Tie service availability is dependent on the need.

Generally, babies are treated in clinic, and occasionally taken to theatre.

- Blenheim = we see approximately 1 – 2 babies/infants per month
- Nelson = we see approximately 2 – 4 babies/infants per month.

14. Is there a waiting list/how long would the patient have to wait to be seen?

NMH response:

- Breastfeeding babies are seen within 1 – 2 weeks
- Babies under 6 weeks are seen as soon as possible on the ward by a Lactation Consultant, otherwise within 5 days if in the community
- Older children are seen within 3 – 4 months.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive