

3 August 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2022007363

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 8 July 2022 for information regarding the operations of Chinese medicine providers during Alert Level 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 lockdowns. You specifically requested:

*“We write with a specific query regarding whether Chinese medicine providers were allowed to operate during either or both of the Covid-19 Level 3 and Level 4 Lockdown periods. The matter this relates to is quite urgent so if you are able to forward this to the appropriate person/department that can confirm:*

*\* Whether Chinese medicine providers were able to operate during either (or both) the Level 3 and Level 4 Lockdown periods; and*

*\* If they were able to operate, what order/regulation or other direction by authorities gave Chinese medicine the ability to operate in either (or both) of the above.*

During Alert Level 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 lockdown period (from 25 March 2020 to 14 May 2020), premises were required to be closed, except for those worked in an essential service or whose business was deemed essential in accordance with the relevant notices issued by the Director-General of Health under section 70 of the Health Act 1956.<sup>1</sup>

The health services list is restricted to:

- Districts, previously 'district health boards' (and all of their facilities), PHARMAC, New Zealand Blood Service, Health Promotion Agency, Health Quality and Safety Commission
- Doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, paramedics, medical laboratory scientists, kaiāwhina workers, social workers, aged care and community workers, and other caregivers
- Hospitals, primary care clinics, medical laboratories, care facilities (for example, rest homes)
- Emergency dental and optometry care services
- Ambulance services
- Allied health professionals
- Services involved with the deceased/tūpāpaku (for example, funeral homes, crematories, and cemeteries)

<sup>1</sup> The list of businesses and services is outlined in the schedule to the section 70 notice: [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0069/latest/LMS339017.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0069/latest/LMS339017.html)

- Services producing health sector equipment, medicines, and personal protective equipment.

During Alert Level 4, only urgent care was provided by allied health services. In Alert Level 3, this was re-visited as the Health Act (COVID-19 Alert Level 3) Order 2020 was revised to give greater access to allied health services, which included Chinese medicine practitioners.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on Manatu Hauorā website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Phil Knipe  
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