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12 August 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022007483

Tena koe s 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 on 13 July 2022 for information relating to the Ministry's Evaluation and Behavioural Science team. You requested:

"a list of all of the objectives of all of the tasks given to the Ministry's Evaluation and Behavioural Science team since its formation in mid-2021."

The Ministry has interpreted your request as relating to a list of all objectives of all the tasks given to the Ministry's Evaluation and Behavioural Science team.

The team was established to use behavioural science theories and insights to support effective and people-focus COVID-19 pandemic management response and policies that improve outcomes for all. This is the primary objective of all our tasks.

Due to the fast-moving nature of the COVID-19 response, the team have been given tasks on an ad hoc basis. Where objectives or aims have been set, they have been reflected in the Horizon Research surveys and we feel this gives an accurate representation of our lists of objectives. The tasks given can broadly be categorised as understanding population level behaviour and understanding setting-specific behaviour.

A core part of this approach is the management of the contract with Horizon Research Limited and delivery of population-based surveys. Adapting the surveys to provide needed insights for different stages of the COVID-19 response allows relevant information to be shared widely within government to support policy and operational teams.

Please see outlined in Appendix 1 a list of the survey reports we are in the process of releasing to the public.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Gill Hall

**Group Leader, Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge
Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health**

S/N	Survey title	Date of report	Contents
1	Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnecting NZ to the world • Vaccination intention • Stigma around COVID-19 • Health seeking behaviours • Alcohol use and domestic violence
2	Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnecting NZ to the world • Vaccination intention • Stigma around COVID-19 • Health seeking behaviours • Alcohol use and domestic violence
3	Attitudes to self-isolation	February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns around self-isolation • Understanding self-isolation guidelines and actions to take • Trusted sources of information
4	Health seeking behaviours	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking of medical help due to COVID • Testing behaviours • Understanding self-isolation guidelines
5	Mental health, alcohol, and other drug use –COVID-19 Omicron Wave	May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the pandemic on individual's wellbeing • Health issues faced in the past fortnight • Wellbeing after border and isolation changes • Domestic challenges since the pandemic • Alcohol consumption before and after the Omicron wave • Other drug use before and after the Omicron wave
6	Attitudes and behaviours to COVID-19 protection measures in the post-Omicron peak, prewinter context	June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivators and behaviours to protect against COVID-19 in a prewinter context • Reporting of RATs • Adherence to Covid protection framework

7	Equitable access to COVID-19 healthcare	July 2022	<p>Access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 healthcare• Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)• Government information• recent access issues• COVID-19 healthcare access issues
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