VAPING
REGULATORY
AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MANATŪ HAUORA
133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

16 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202205499

Tēnā 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 the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 20 April 2022 for:

> *"In each year between 2011 to 2020 (or the most recent year for statistics):*
>
> *1.How many people passed away from smoking related diseases by:*
> *a. Ethnicity*
> *b. Gender*
> *c. Age group (eg. 15-24, 25-34, 35-44; 45-54; 55=64; 65-74;a and 74+)*
> *d. The disease that primarily led to their decease.*
>
> *2. What has been the annual costs incurred by the publicly funded health system treating persons with smoking-related diseases.*
> *In each year between 2000 to 2010:*
>
> *3. How many people passed away from smoking related diseases.*
> *Since 9 August 2021 under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Regulations 2021:*
>
> *4. A list of New Zealand laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.*
>
> *5. All correspondence, emails, reports, analysis, meeting notes etc, showing the Ministry/Vaping Regulatory Authority has or is verifying that every notified product is being tested by laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.*
>
> *6. Confirmation that New Zealand laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 have the capability to test all product safety requirements for vaping products as detailed in the Regulations, especially, the substances that vapes must not contain.*
>
> *7. Details of what the Ministry/Vaping Regulatory Authority considers to be a "fit for purpose" testing method under ISO/IEC 17025."*

On 13 May 2022, the Ministry contacted you and asked to clarify your request regarding smoking-related diseases, as this is not a defined disease category. On 16 May 2022, you refined your request. Each part of your refined request is responded to below:

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1. Smoking related diseases (2011-2020):

What we are after is a more precise breakdown of the number of actual deaths and the causes of those deaths over the period 2011-2020. The Ministry website states: "around 5000 people die each year in New Zealand because of smoking or second-hand smoke exposure. That's 13 people a day," which is cited on the Ministry website.

2. What has been the annual costs incurred by the publicly funded health system treating persons with smoking-related diseases.

3. Smoking related diseases (2000-2010):
This is a similar question to the one above but we split it in case the information was not that easy to access. Again, it is to build a super accurate figure of smoking harms. We ask because we found a 2003 Beehive media release that says this number but which referred the number came from 1997.

Data about tobacco and smoking-attributable mortality is publicly available through the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME) Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study, which is available at the following link: https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/. This information is freely available; however, you will need to set up an account to access this information. Data on smoking-attributable deaths is available through selecting the following:

1. GBD estimate: Risk factor
2. Measure: Deaths
3. Metric: Number
4. Risk: Smoking (or tobacco)
5. Location: New Zealand (and other filters as required)

Data is available on the number of deaths attributable to smoking by age-group and sex, but data is not available by ethnic group. Estimates are available each year up to 2019.

The GBD tool does not include information about annual costs, however there is a report from 2007 that has estimates of the economic cost of smoking available here:

untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/wp-content/uploads/reports/new_zealand_2016_annex3_tobacco_tax.pdf.

4. A list of New Zealand laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

The Ministry does not hold this information. The International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) holds the information on ISO/IEC accredited laboratories in New Zealand and have advised that as of 3 June 2022, they have not specifically credited any laboratories for the testing specified under the Schedule 5 of the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Regulations 2021. For more information on the IANZ please contact them directly here: www.ianz.govt.nz/.

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5. All correspondence, emails, reports, analysis, meeting notes etc, showing the Ministry/Vaping Regulatory Authority has or is verifying that every notified product is being tested by laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

The Vaping Regulating Authority (VRA) does not verify that any testing for vaping substances has occurred, or that any testing was conducted in a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

Section 28 of the product safety requirements in Schedule 5 under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Regulations 2021, states that *"a notifier must ensure that testing of vaping substances is conducted by a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025."* Furthermore, section 62(a) of the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (SERPA) states that *"before notifying a notifiable product that is intended for sale in New Zealand, the notifier must ensure that the product complies with product safety requirements."* Therefore, the responsibility lies with the notifier to ensure that any testing is conducted by a lab accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. The VRA may, however, under section 57 of SERPA require a manufacturer or importer of a regulated product to conduct tests of products.

6. Confirmation that New Zealand laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 have the capability to test all product safety requirements for vaping products as detailed in the Regulations, especially, the substances that vapes must not contain.

ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation enables laboratories to demonstrate that they operate competently against general international standards for testing. Manufacturers or importers of regulated products would need to find a laboratory that does the testing they require, and they would need to confirm that the laboratory has the correct accreditations. There is no expectation that all ISO/IEC 17025 laboratories would offer all testing services that a notifier requires to meet their obligations under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Regulations 2021. All notifiers need to find a suitable testing laboratory for their own products.

7. Details of what the Ministry/Vaping Regulatory Authority considers to be a "fit for purpose" testing method under ISO/IEC 17025."

The VRA does not review or approve testing methods under ISO/IEC 17025. It is the notifier's responsibility to ensure the testing done by the laboratory is sufficient to enable the notifier to comply with their obligations under the Regulations.

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.

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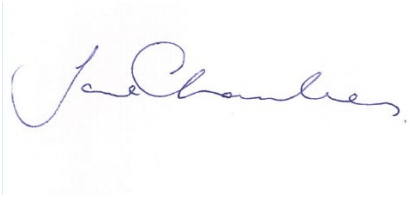
Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Jane Chambers
Group Manager
Population Health and Programmes
interim Public Health Agency