

03 May 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202206031

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 8 May 2022 for:

“How many gender affirming surgeries have been undertaken in the past ten years in New Zealand?

Could this please be separated by year, and DHB where the surgery was performed?

Could this also be broken down by type of gender affirming surgery? (E.g. chest surgery, (chest reconstruction to masculine) or chest surgery (breast augmentation), hysterectomy, oophorectomy, or orchidectomy.)”

Please be advised that the Ministry cannot provide a breakdown of gender affirming surgical procedures in the exact way you have requested due to the small number of patients and procedures involved.

As such, this information is withheld in full under 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

However, the Ministry has provided a trend series of publicly funded events by procedure type at a national level for the last 5 years per the nature of your request.

The patients receiving the care in the events become potentially identifiable when this information is broken down:

- by district health board (DHBs),
- prior to 2016,
- with chest procedures separated by gender.

Please note that Hysterectomy and Oophorectomy procedures have been combined as these are often in the same event and there are only very small numbers where these don't occur together.

Number of Gender Affirming Surgery procedures

Financial Year

Procedure Group	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Hysterectomy /					
Oophorectomy	9	15	17	18	23
Orchidectomy	7	7	7	13	28
Chest Procedures	10	19	18	43	55
Grand Total	26	41	42	74	106

Note: numbers were extracted from the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) on 09 May 2022. The NMDS is a dynamic database and numbers may differ from other released or published data. Events included in the above table include a diagnosis code of 'F640 – Transsexualism', 'F648 - Other gender identity disorders', or 'F649 - Gender identity disorder, unspecified' within their clinical coding. Procedure groups are manually grouped from ICD-10 AM clinical procedure codes.

In Budget 2020 Vote Health, the Government announced \$2.182 million over four years to support primary and community health providers to deliver gender-affirming services. This includes a lead referral pathway for gender-affirming services and supports. It is expected that improved health pathways will increase access to gender-affirming surgery, for all New Zealanders, regardless of where they live.

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.

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



Jess Smaling
Associate Deputy Director-General
DHB Performance and Support