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27 April 2023

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H2023022566

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 24 March 2023 for information regarding a content change on a Ministry webpage about puberty blockers. You requested:

“Please provide the evidence that lead to this change on the ministry of health website.”

Manatū Hauora reduced the website content regarding puberty blockers while an evidence brief to support this area was being completed. The relevant evidence brief is currently being prepared for release and is scheduled to be published in May. As such, your request is refused under section 18(d) as information requested will soon be publicly available. In addition, the business unit responsible for updating the webpage content has transferred from Manatū Hauora to Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. As such, if upon release of the evidence, you have further requests you may wish to contact Te Whatu Ora via email: hnzOIA@health.govt.nz

The September 2022 update to the website recognised that overseas jurisdictions, including UK, Norway and Sweden, were reviewing the use of puberty blockers in their health systems particularly in younger people.

It is important to note that any medical intervention carries a balance of benefit and risk that needs to be considered in context by the person in partnership with their health professional.

It is important that health services meet the needs of all New Zealanders, with inclusiveness and dignity for all. Manatū Hauora is committed to providing better access, support and safe treatment for rainbow communities through our health system and ensuring the system is responsive to the needs of transgender, intersex, and gender-diverse people.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Joe Bourne
Chief Medical Officer