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Ref: H2023022400

Tēnā koe s

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 22 March 2023 and 11 April 2023 for information regarding health strategies. Each part of your request has been responded to below:

- 1) *I see the Ministry of Health is working on a Women's Health Strategy. Does the Ministry of Health have, or planning, a men's health strategy?*
 - 2) *If the Ministry of Health has, or is planning, a Men's Health Strategy, when will it be open for submissions?*
 - 3) *If the Ministry of Health is not planning to have a Men's health strategy, why not?*
 - 4) *Given New Zealand research shows men falling behind women in terms of access to health care, diagnoses and overall life expectancy, why is the Ministry of Health making a Women's health strategy rather than a Men's health strategy?*
 - 5) *Does your Government care about mens health and why is it being misandry towards men's health?*
- 1b) *Does the Ministry of Health have, or are planning to have, a mens health strategy? If yes when?*
 - 2b) *If the Ministry of Health is not planning to have a Men's health strategy, why not?*
 - 3b) *Given New Zealand research shows men falling behind women in terms of access to health care, diagnoses and overall life expectancy, why is the Ministry of Health making a Women's health strategy rather than a Men's health strategy?*
 - 4b) *What were the criteria used for picking women over men when deciding to make a sex based health strategy?*

Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) is developing a suite of six strategies required by the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022. These strategies are for all New Zealanders, with the New Zealand Health Strategy setting a whole of population direction alongside the Hauora Māori Strategy and targeted strategies for Pacific health, health of disabled people, women's health, and rural health.

The development of the Pae Ora strategies includes working with key stakeholders to ensure that the voices and aspirations of New Zealanders, including men and other groups without a dedicated strategy, will be canvassed, and represented across the strategies.

Manatū Hauora does not have a men's health strategy, or current plans to develop one. The Ministry notes that the Pae Ora Act does not limit our ability to develop additional strategies in the future.

The inclusion of a Women's Health Strategy in the Pae Ora Act was a decision made by Parliament as part of the legislative process. This process includes over 30 submissions on the Pae Ora Bill relating to women's health.

We note your point around health differences between men and women. While women have a longer life expectancy than men, women are more likely to spend these years in poorer health and disability. You can view data on health expectancy and time spent in poor health in the Health and Independence Report 2021 which is publicly available here:

www.health.govt.nz/publication/health-and-independence-report-2021#:~:text=The%202021%20Health%20and%20Independence,extensive%20range%20of%20health%20measures.

Through engagement with women, we have heard that women often are not listened to, or are dismissed when accessing health services, and often put their own wellbeing last. By supporting women's health and wellbeing, we can therefore support health and wellbeing across generations, whānau and communities.

The Women's Health Strategy will set the strategic direction for improving women's health. The scope is broad, and includes discrimination against women, experiences and conditions that affect women differently or disproportionately, and social determinants of health that contribute to gender inequity.

Manatū Hauora recognises that gender differences in the things that affect health, including harmful gender roles and norms, can also result in poorer outcomes for men. The strategy is an opportunity to promote a gender lens across all health and wellbeing policy.

5b) What percentage of women will be covered by the strategy and what percentage of gender diverse people will be covered by the strategy?

Gender diverse people's health and wellbeing needs, and experiences will be reflected in the Women's Health Strategy where they intersect with those of other women. The strategy is therefore inclusive of all women, including trans women, as well as some people who may not identify as women. Gender diverse people's health and wellbeing needs and experiences will also be reflected in the development of the other Pae Ora strategies as appropriate.

The inclusion of gender diverse people in the strategy recognises that people's health needs and experiences are shaped by both sex and gender. Other parts of people's identity that

can affect health and wellbeing are ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status. To avoid losing this nuance, the strategy will not treat women or diverse populations of women as homogenous groups.

As it is not possible to measure a percentage of gender diverse people whose health and wellbeing needs and experiences will be reflected in the strategy, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

6b) What percentage of the money budgeted, or planned to be budgeted, for the strategy will be spent on womens health issues and what percentage will be spent on gender diverse people's health issues?

7) How much money is the total strategy expected to cost?

The Ministry's work to develop the Pae Ora strategies is funded using existing Ministry baseline funding as this is a key part of our role as steward of the health system.

Rather than directing government funding, the Pae Ora strategies, including the Women's Health Strategy, will set a long-term direction for the health sector. This direction will be taken forward and put into action by the Government Policy Statement on Health, which will inform the New Zealand Health Plan. Therefore, these parts of your request are refused under section this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

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



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