MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MANATŪ HAUORA

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

4 July 2019

[redacted]

Response to request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 21 May 2019 for:

> *"...may I please be updated on RF prevention: What has been the MoH advice for ministers Clark and Salesa about how to target the $12m additional funding in Budget 2019 and will it all go to Counties Manukau DHB and partners?*
>
> *The MoH website says that 11 DHBs had to split between them the sum of $5 million a year RF prevention funding arising from Budget 2017/18 - correct? Can you please explain how this was shared around - by population? need? cases?*
>
> *The Northland DHB refreshed RF strategy says the MoH intended to carry out a review in 2018/19 to assess the success of current initiatives and whether they should continue, and whether MoH funding should continue post 2021/22. May I please have a copy of the above-mentioned review?"*

Responses to your questions are set out below.

1. ***"What has been the MoH advice for ministers Clark and Salesa about how to target the $12m additional funding in Budget 2019 and will it all go to Counties Manukau DHB and partners?"***

The Ministry has advised the Ministers that the funding should be spent on a mix of initiatives that will prevent rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease and improve its management. Specific initiatives have not been identified because feedback from stakeholders in 2018 after the Rheumatic Fever Prevention Programme (RFPP) ended identified that it was important to work closely with communities to identify strategies and initiatives to be community-led and whānau owned.

The Ministry is currently developing advice on how to ensure that the $12 million additional funding in Budget 2019 is targeted to the types of initiatives identified above.

About two-thirds of rheumatic fever cases occur in the Auckland region, mainly in South Auckland, and mainly in Samoan and Tongan children and young people. That is why this funding is for the three district health boards (DHBs) in the Auckland region (Auckland DHB, Waitematā DHB and Counties Manukau DHB).

Eleven DHBs have been receiving funding since the end of the RFPP to deliver rheumatic fever prevention services. This funding will continue until 2022.

2. ***"The MoH website says that 11 DHBs had to split between them the sum of $5 million a year RF prevention funding arising from Budget 2017/18 - correct? Can you please explain how this was shared around - by population? need? cases?"***

This money was allocated from the 2014 Budget. As a result, the funding allocation took place in the context of the Rheumatic Fever Better Public Services target which was a two thirds reduction in cases by 2017. At a national level the target was 1.4 per 100,000.

A total of $5 million per year has been allocated until 2022 to the 11 DHBs with a high incidence of rheumatic fever.

The funding allocation decision was based on ensuring a strong focus on the population groups that experience more than 90 percent of all rheumatic fever cases. It also addresses the issue of equity for those DHBs that started from a high baseline and were always going to have to do more work to get to the national target.

The table below outlines the allocated funding to each of the 11 DHBs.

District Health Board	Ongoing funding from 2017/18 ($)
Northland DHB	594,047
Auckland DHB	240,755
Waitematā DHB	134,567
Counties Manukau DHB	2,590,356
Waikato DHB	281,069
Lakes DHB	293,704
Bay of Plenty DHB	183,743
Hauora Tairāwhiti DHB	253,955
Hawke's Bay DHB	153,364
Capital & Coast DHB	124,958
Hutt Valley DHB	149,481
Total funding to DHBs	**5,000,000**

3. ***"The Northland DHB refreshed RF strategy says the MoH intended to carry out a review in 2018/19 to assess the success of current initiatives and whether they should continue, and whether MoH funding should continue post 2021/22. May I please have a copy of the above-mentioned review?"***

The review has not taken place as it is now part of a broader review of funding. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document does not exist.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention