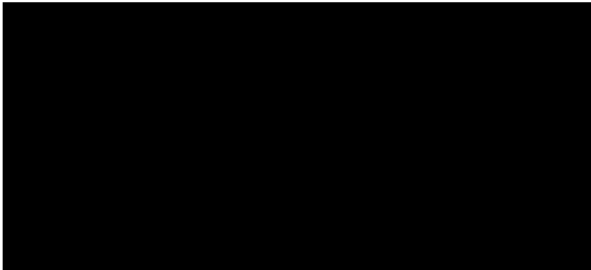


28 JUN 2019



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 11 June 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*“OIA request on claims under the Emergency Dental Agreement
Under the Official Information Act, we are seeking the following information;
1) The aggregate total number of claims made under the Emergency Dental Agreement across all DHBs in the most recently available 12-month period.
2) The aggregate dollar value of all claims made under the Emergency Dental Agreement across all DHBs in the most recently available 12-month period.”*

On 13 June 2019, you defined ‘Emergency Dental’ as ‘Emergency Dental Care for Low Income Adults’.

Emergency dental treatment for relief of pain and treatment of infection for low-income adults with Community Services Cards is provided by district health boards (DHBs) in accordance with the applicable service specifications. These can be found in the Nationwide Service Framework Library: <https://nsfl.health.govt.nz/service-specifications/current-service-specifications/oral-health-service-specifications>.

In 2017/18, the DHBs allocated approximately \$7.45 million (GST excluded) to emergency dental care for low-income adults. These services are delivered in three ways, as follows:

1. By DHB provider arm services (i.e. public hospital dental departments). The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold the information on the number of patients or treatment events for emergency dental treatment for low-income adults, provided by this type of service. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act.
2. By dental practices contracted by DHBs and paid on a fee-for-service basis. These services are conducted through the national provider payments system, which the Ministry provides for the DHBs. The DHBs that use this type of emergency dental services agreements are Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Lakes, Hawkes Bay, MidCentral and South Canterbury DHBs. Information on the total number of claims paid in the most recent 12 month period (to 21 May 2019) and the total amount paid is as follows:
 - 13,992 claims were received by the Ministry from 22 May 2018 to 21 May 2019. Of these, 13,987 were accepted and paid. Please note that there can be more than one claim per patient.
 - The total amount paid for this period was \$1,769,768.41 including GST.

3. By dental practices contracted by DHBs under a variety of bulk funded contractual arrangements. These are paid on invoice in accordance with the terms of each contract. The DHBs providing emergency dental services for low-income adults under these various contractual arrangements are Northland, Auckland, Waitemata, Counties Manukau, Wairarapa, Canterbury and Southern DHBs. The total amount paid under these agreements over the most recent 12 month period (to 21 May 2019) was \$2,109,270.78 (GST included). The Ministry does not hold information on the number of patients or treatment events provided under these types of agreements, therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Attached in Appendix 1 are two tables. The Fee for Service Claims table shows the number of emergency dental claims received by the Ministry from 22 May 2018 to 21 May 2019. These are claims made by dental practices contracted by the DHBs and paid on a fee-for-service basis. A provider can offer more than one service to an individual in one visit and each service will be counted as a separate claim. For example, a client may receive an x-ray and a filling during the same visit, these will be treated as two separate claims.

The Bulk Funded Invoices table shows the amount of bulk funded invoices paid from 22 May 2018 to 21 May 2019 for each DHB. These are claims made by dental practices contracted by DHBs under various contractual agreements that are paid in accordance with the terms of each contract.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please be aware 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

Fee For Service Claims

DHB	CLAIM_STATUS	NUMBER_OF_CLAIMS	AMOUNT_PAID
Bay of Plenty DHB	Accepted	1354	\$155,327.53
Bay of Plenty DHB	Rejected	1	\$0.00
Hawkes Bay DHB	Accepted	106	\$18,002.35
Hawkes Bay DHB	Rejected	1	\$0.00
Lakes DHB	Accepted	2061	\$231,158.56
Mid Central DHB	Accepted	1972	\$290,259.81
South Canterbury DHB	Accepted	77	\$8,219.61
South Canterbury DHB	Rejected	3	\$0.00
Tairāwhiti DHB	Accepted	882	\$124,297.22
Waikato DHB	Accepted	7535	\$942,503.33
Total		13992	\$1,769,768.41

Bulk Funded Invoices

DHB	AMOUNT_TO_PAY_INCL_GST
Canterbury DHB	\$605,811.21
Southern DHB	\$440,181.49
Wairarapa DHB	\$132,430.08
Counties Manukau DHB	\$360,948.72
Waitemata DHB	\$245,962.67
Northland DHB	\$145,820
Auckland DHB	\$178,116.61
Total	\$2,109,271.78

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