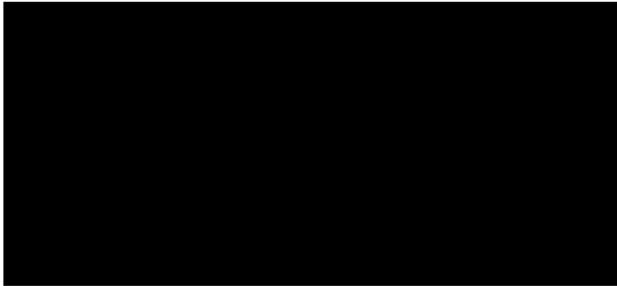


26 AUG 2019



Request for official information

Thank you for your request of 25 July 2019 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*"The Ministry of Health recommends the following minimum ratios:
one full-time equivalent (FTE) registered nurse (RN) to 750 students in decile 1–3 secondary schools
one FTE RN to 200 students in high-needs contexts, such as alternative education units
RN attendance for a minimum of one day per week during term time.*

Please can you advise; –

- Does the ministry assist with the funding of these recommendations? If so to what extent?*
- How many schools have taken up the recommendations?*
- Where are the schools that have taken up the recommendations?*
- Are you able to name of the schools that have taken up the recommendations?*
- Does the ministry monitor the implementation of the recommendations and any outcomes e.g. improvement in health in the school population?*
- Does the ministry know what the greatest area of health need is in the schools that have adopted the recommendations e.g. mental health, physical health, obesity, diabetes..."*

On 8 August 2019 the following part of your request was transferred to all district health boards (DHBs) for response under section 14 of the Act, as the information requested is more closely aligned with their functions:

- How many schools have taken up the recommendations?*
- Where are the schools that have taken up the recommendations?*
- Are you able to name of the schools that have taken up the recommendations?*

DHBs receive funding to deliver School Based Health Services (SBHS). In the 2018/19 financial year, DHBs were funded close to \$15 million to deliver SBHS. Of this, \$8.7 million

was devolved to DHBs, and DHBs receive the other \$6.3 million from the Ministry via Crown Funding Agreements.

Funding is calculated at the recommended ratio of one nurse full-time equivalent (FTE) to 750 students in decile one to three public secondary schools (including secondary school aged youths attending composite schools). Teen parent units (TPU) and alternative education units (AEU) are funded at a ratio of one nurse FTE to 200 students. These ratios are specified recommendations in the Services for Children and Young People - School and Pre School Health Services - Additional School Based Health Services Tier Level Three Service Specification; used in conjunction with Level One and Two Service Specifications. You can read more about the specifications at the following web address:

<https://nsfl.health.govt.nz/service-specifications/current-service-specifications/child-and-youth-health-service-specifications>

The Ministry funds DHBs to provide SBHS to secondary school students at their place of learning to improve health outcomes and inequalities for this age group. SBHS aims to help link young people with primary health care providers to improve access to youth appropriate services for mental health, alcohol and drugs, sexual health, nutrition, weight management, exercise and positive youth development programmes.

DHBs can apply discretion to vary nurse to student ratios according to the needs in their respective districts. As per the Tier Level Two Service Specification: "In principle, the focus of the Service will be on the identified needs of children and young people."

The Ministry monitors implementation of the rollout of SBHS but the data is not yet sufficiently detailed to enable us to monitor the application of ratios.

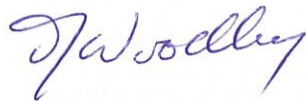
You can read more about SBHS on the Ministry website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addictions/youth-mental-health-project/youth-mental-health-project-initiatives/expanded-school-based-health-services-making-difference>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addictions/youth-mental-health-project/youth-mental-health-project-initiatives/expanded-school-based-health-services-making-difference/school-based-health-services-case-studies>

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made in this response.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention