

28 JAN 2020

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[REDACTED]
Ref: H202000034

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 1 January 2020 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"I wish to kindly request for information on the annual estimated cost of caesarean section for the year 2017 and 2018 for the following:

- 1. New Zealand (national estimate)*
- 2. Canterbury (regional estimate)"*

The Ministry does not collect data on the actual costs of caesarean sections. The Ministry can provide an estimated cost of casemix hospitalisations for caesarean sections for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial year using the Weighted Inlier Equivalent Separations (WIES) methodology. One component of the WIES methodology is that there are a number of events that are excluded. The term 'casemix hospitalisations' means that these exclusions have been applied. This data is attached as Appendix One.

For your reference, further information on the WIES methodology can be found on the Ministry's website at the following address: <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/data-references/weighted-inlier-equivalent-separations>

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 under this request.

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

Yours sincerely



Shayne Hunter
Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital

Appendix One: Publicly funded casemix hospital discharges

Table One. New Zealand (national estimate) 2016/17

Type of Caesarean Delivery	Number of Discharges	Estimated Cost
001A Caesarean Delivery with Catastrophic complications and/or comorbidities (CC)	1312	\$15,529,420.07
001B Caesarean Delivery with Severe CC	3503	\$28,573,709.07
001C Caesarean Delivery Without Catastrophic or Severe CC	11268	\$72,117,293.26

Table Two. New Zealand (national estimate) 2017/18

Type of Caesarean Delivery	Number of Discharges	Estimated Cost
001A Caesarean Delivery with Catastrophic CC	1409	\$17,411,842.12
001B Caesarean Delivery with Severe CC	3677	\$30,342,845.51
001C Caesarean Delivery Without Catastrophic or Severe CC	11102	\$73,342,317.12

Table Three. Canterbury estimate 2016/17

Type of Caesarean Delivery	Number of Discharges	Estimated Cost
001A Caesarean Delivery with Catastrophic CC	131	\$1,501,535.24
001B Caesarean Delivery with Severe CC	354	\$2,873,898.15
001C Caesarean Delivery Without Catastrophic or Severe CC	1156	\$7,566,053.77

Table Four. Canterbury estimate 2017/18

Type of Caesarean Delivery	Number of Discharges	Estimated Cost
001A Caesarean Delivery with Catastrophic CC	139	\$1,615,103.55
001B Caesarean Delivery with Severe CC	417	\$3,452,812.33
001C Caesarean Delivery Without Catastrophic or Severe CC	1150	\$7,748,596.24