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7 November 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022014158

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 6 October 2022. Please find a response to each of your requests below.

How many racists are there in the ministry of health?

This part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

How many staff have had disciplinary action or been reported for racism in the last 2 years?

Manatū Hauora takes all complaints about racism very seriously and we have well-established and robust policies and processes in place to address these. Between 18 September 2020 – 18 September 2022 Manatū Hauora is aware of two concerns/complaints raised that were in relation to racism. Manatū Hauora has not taken any disciplinary action against a staff member in relation to racism during the period 18 September 2020 – 18 September 2022.

Any papers, actions or material in what the ministry is doing to catch these racists and get them out of the health system?

Alternatively, what is being done to re-educate racists?

How many staff are being employed to catch these racists in your ranks?

Any material on any potential register of health system racists, similar to that of sex offenders.

This part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Reports of racially offensive language or racially offensive behaviour would be investigated by the relevant manager and/ or the Human Resources department. Manatū Hauora does not tolerate harassment of any type in our workplace, either by a Manatū Hauora staff member or any other person associated with Manatū Hauora.

Any racism allegations or disciplinary action against Ashley Bloomfield?

Chief executives of Public Service departments and departmental agencies are appointed by the Public Service Commissioner. As such, this part of your request was transferred to Te Kawa Maataho - Public Service Commission (PSC) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from PSC in due course.

Any papers or memos or analysis identifying how much racism impacts on health in NZ.

Ao Mai te Rā: the Anti-Racism Kaupapa is a Manatū Hauora initiative to support the way the health system understands, reacts and responds to racism in health. Eliminating all forms of racism is critical to achieving health equity and the vision of pae ora – healthy futures for all New Zealanders. It is also a key part of upholding our obligations to Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The literature review and summary paper “Evolution of Racism and Anti-racism” are part of an integrated portfolio for phase one of Ao Mai te Rā and were completed by researchers at the University of Canterbury and Tokona Te Raki Māori Futures Collective, on behalf of Manatū Hauora: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/ao-mai-te-ra-the-anti-racism-kaupapa-state-one-literature-review-aug22.pdf. Further information relating to Ao Mai te Rā is available here: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/ao-mai-te-ra-anti-racism-kaupapa

As kaitiaki of the system, the Ministry of Health has an important role to play in creating an environment where all people can access the health care they need without fear of racial discrimination. The Ministry has outlined a commitment to addressing racism and discrimination in all forms, this is reflected as an outcome in:

- Whakamaua: Maori Health Action Plan 2020 – 2025: www.health.govt.nz/publication/whakamaua-maori-health-action-plan-2020-2025
- Ola Manuia: Pacific Health and Wellbeing Plan 2020 – 2025: www.health.govt.nz/publication/ola-manuia-pacific-health-and-wellbeing-action-plan-2020-2025
- The New Zealand Cancer Action Plan 2019-2029: www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-cancer-action-plan-2019-2029

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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



Celia Wellington
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