



SITREP 08

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 6 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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New information in red text

All information is current as of **1300hrs 6 September 2019**

National Situation

1. In the last two weeks (23 August to 6 September) there have been **301** cases of measles reported in New Zealand.
2. From 1 January 2019 to **6 September** 2019 there have been **1059** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (*Appendix 1*). This is an increase of eight cases nationally since Executive Summary 04 provided on Thursday 5 September.
3. As at 6 September 2019, there have been **eight** confirmed cases of measles in Queenstown, which is an increase of two confirmed cases since Executive Summary 04 provided on Thursday 5 September. Further investigations are ongoing.
4. There is still a rapid increase in cases in the Auckland region. Cases continue to occur nationwide related to the Auckland outbreak.
5. Public Health Units outside of Auckland are being encouraged to manage measles cases and their contacts as per protocol, with isolation, contact tracing and quarantine to stop the spread of disease. Cases outside of Auckland are all currently linked to travel to or from the Metropolitan Auckland area, or importation from overseas.

Auckland Situation

6. There is a significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region which commenced in March 2019. In the last two weeks there have been **268** cases notified in the Auckland region. From 1 January 2019 to **6 September** 2019, there have been **881** confirmed cases of measles in this region – **605** of which have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 2*). This is an increase of four cases in the Auckland region since Executive Summary 04 provided on Thursday 5 September.
7. New cases are mainly occurring in South Auckland, Counties Manukau. In South Auckland, the cases have been mainly in the 0–4 and 20–29 year age groups and predominately in the Pacific population.
8. Thirty-eight percent of cases in the Auckland region have been hospitalised. This proportion is higher than in previous New Zealand outbreaks, where approximately 30 percent of cases have been hospitalised. There are no clear reasons to account for this increase in hospitalisation.

9. The majority of cases have been in unvaccinated people, or in those who do not know their vaccination status.
10. There have been no deaths associated with this outbreak.

Data collection

11. Information is currently being sourced from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) database, EpiSurv. This is the national database for notifiable diseases. EpiSurv provides near real-time information on notifiable diseases in New Zealand. The near real-time data is collated and analysed by ESR on behalf of the Ministry of Health.
12. For measles, laboratories are required to notify confirmed measles cases directly to EpiSurv. Once the regional public health unit (PHU) processes the laboratory notification, a case is automatically created in EpiSurv. Provided that PHUs process these laboratory notifications promptly (which is currently the case) the EpiSurv information can be used as the single source of information. While laboratory notifications of measles are prompt, PHUs do not normally function for notification over the weekend. This may result in an apparent false surge in notifications on a Monday.

Auckland Region Response – Key Actions

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

13. The Auckland region has put in place a number of strategies to increase the population immunity against measles:
 - lowering the age of the first MMR vaccine in the Auckland region from age 15 months to 12 months
 - active recall of children who have not been vaccinated
 - opportunistic vaccination of older children and young adults when attending primary care
 - using outreach services
 - drop-in vaccination clinics at large medical centres and after hours clinics in Counties Manukau
 - public messaging on the outbreak about who is at risk and how to get vaccinated.
14. Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is working with local organisations, **including schools**, regarding major events and working with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to protect its vulnerable population. **It is also scoping additional public information to be provided at Auckland International Airport in line with national messaging.**
15. Particular effort is being made to vaccinate children, Pacific people, and those aged between 15 and 29 in the Auckland region to minimise the impact of this outbreak. Those outside of this region should follow the National Immunisation Schedule. Exception is infants 12 months or older travelling to Auckland, who can bring their first MMR vaccination, usually given at 15 months, forward to 12 months.
16. **ARPHS is developing a team to support logistics for the upcoming weeks to help with the workload and accommodating incoming staff.**

17. The Auckland region representatives from ARPHS and the DHBs continue to participate in daily teleconferences with the NHCC.

Counties Manukau District Health Board

18. As at Friday 6 September at 1300hours Middlemore Hospital has admitted 206 cases since June.
19. Outreach vaccination is occurring in the CMDHB area. This involves active recall of children under five who may have missed or are delayed in getting their MMR vaccines. In the Auckland region, this also includes people not engaged or enrolled with primary care. Additional clinics have been set up to opportunistically vaccinate the unimmunised population.
20. Drop-in clinics in Auckland are running Monday to Friday from 9am till 4pm at Clendon Shopping Centre in Manurewa and daily from 9am till 4pm at the Manukau SuperClinic. Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department is also performing opportunistic vaccination. However, the general public is not encouraged to attend ED just for a vaccination. Data on these additional vaccination clinics has been provided by CMDHB (*Appendix 3*).
21. This coming weekend community drop-in clinics will also be at:
- Counties Manukau Clinic Hub, 112 Bairds Road, Otara, from 9am-4pm
 - Mangere Community Health Centre, Level 1, 10 Waddon Place, Mangere, from 9am-4pm
22. CMDHB has now set up a webpage which will be regularly updated with the latest information on where and when people can get vaccinated.
<https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/for-patients-and-visitors/measles/>

Waitematā DHB

23. There will be a free community vaccination clinic in the Outpatient Clinic area at Waitakere Hospital on 7 September 2019 from 8:30-2:30pm.

Other Regions' Response – Key Actions

Southern DHB

24. Southern DHB has stood up its emergency operations centre. It has developed an action plan to address the cases related to measles exposure on a ski field.
25. The public and general practices have been notified through a media release, and additional information for schools and large group events is being produced.
26. As at 0930hours on Friday 6 September, approximately 900 NZSki staff have unknown vaccination status. On Thursday 5 September 135 staff were vaccinated. More vaccination clinics for NZSki staff will be held over the weekend.
27. Work is being done to clarify the advice for DHB staff, and to identify Lakes District hospital staff vaccination status.

Ministry of Health

28. At this stage the Ministry is not recommending cancellation of major events. However, event organisers are encouraged to work closely with their local DHB and consider the risks associated with the current measles outbreak to their participants.
29. The Ministry convened an urgent meeting of its expert advisory group on 3 September 2019.
30. The expert advisory group is scheduled to convene again on 10 September 2019 to consider actions that could be implemented by the end of the year. Vaccine availability, impact on existing services and cost implications will be taken into consideration for all options.
31. The group's advice and recommendations will in turn inform the Ministry's advice to Government.
32. The Ministry has had a representative on site at CMDHB. The situation was well under control. Free fruit and fresh water were being provided to people receiving vaccination, donated by Countdown.

Vaccine

33. Vaccination is not typically the first response for an outbreak of measles as it takes 14 days to develop immunity in response to the vaccine.
34. Ongoing routine immunisation programmes and high community immunity are therefore the best way to prevent disease outbreaks occurring.
35. One dose of vaccine is effective in 95% of people. After two doses, more than 99% of people are protected. It takes two weeks for immunity to develop after having the measles vaccine.
36. Prior to 1969, when vaccination was introduced, measles was very common in New Zealand. Those over 50 years of age are considered immune and do not need the measles vaccine.
37. In Auckland, the communities most affected are prioritised in getting vaccines, namely Pacific peoples, and those under 4 years of age and aged between 15 and 29 years.
38. Normal monthly usage of MMR vaccine in New Zealand is approximately 12,000 doses. From 1 January to 3 September 2019, 230,000 doses of MMR vaccine were distributed nationwide. From 1 September to 5 September, over 35,000 doses were distributed around the country - about 2/3 of these within the Auckland region. This is equivalent to three months worth of demand under typical circumstances.
39. On 5 September, a brief pause was placed on vaccination distribution to work through some logistical issues. The Ministry is working closely with PHARMAC and ProPharma to manage vaccine distribution to ensure vaccine is going to where it is most needed.

40. PHARMAC has arranged with the vaccine supplier to bring forward the next two expected orders of vaccine to assist with supporting the increased demand of vaccine.

Public Information Management / Media

41. The Ministry website is being continually updated with new information.
42. Views on the Ministry of Health measles webpages have increased significantly in the past two weeks. From 26 August to 1 September, there have been 45,171 total hits on measles related webpages. 63.5% of the browsing sessions originated in Auckland.
43. Media interest has eased slightly. Queries that are received are specifically interested in vaccine stocks and availability, notably Radio New Zealand, including Morning Report. The Ministry continues its work with PHARMAC on shared messages for any responses on this topic.
44. Dr William Rainger from Auckland Regional Public Health Service and representatives from CMDHB have given a press conference today at 1400hrs. Ministry representatives have been present, including Director of Public Health, Dr Caroline McElroy.
45. All agencies, including the Ministry, will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness. The Ministry's position is that the case numbers from the Executive Summary, released daily, are to be used for media requests and releases for national consistency.

Phone lines

46. The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) reported that in the 24 hour period that ended midnight 5 September, 1,578 calls were answered. This included IMAC Public calls, Healthline calls and Health Advice calls. This was 70% higher than forecast, and 1% below the number of calls on 4 September. The IMAC line received 136 calls.
47. In addition to this, 214 people were diverted and received self-care advice information digitally. Of these, 44% were seeking general measles information, 26% information about the MMR vaccine, 7% about the location of Auckland clinics. There were 44 downloads of information sheets.
48. During the period above, 158 symptomatic measles calls were provided with a clinical triage – 1% were sent to ED, 11% to Accident and Medical Clinics, 42% to general practice, and 23% were provided with self-care advice. The number of symptomatic measles calls has been increasing by around 15% per day from 1 September.
49. The highest number of callers was from the Waitemata region. 30% of callers were Māori, compared to an average of about 20% of all callers in 2018.
50. The IMAC phone lines are experiencing high call volumes. On 3 September IMAC received 390 calls. IMAC now plan to operate their 0800 IMMUNE phone lines this weekend due to excessive demand.

51. PlunketLine is also experiencing increased call volumes. Table 1 shows the increase of calls to PlunketLine since Friday 30 August.

Day	Increase on calls from previous day
Friday 30 August	Increase of 51%
Saturday 31 August	Increase of 26%
Sunday 1 September	Increase of 35%
Monday 2 September	Increase of 30%
Tuesday 3 September	Increase of 37%
Wednesday 4 September	Increase of 49%
Thursday 5 September	Increase of 49%

Next situation report

The next report will be an Exception Report via email at **1100** hrs on **Saturday 7 September 2019**. The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on **Monday 9 September 2019**.

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Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

DHB	Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 6 September 2019	Cases in the last 14 days (23 August to 6 September)	Status
Northland	35	11	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Waitemata	149	25	Outbreak ongoing
Auckland	127	60	Outbreak ongoing
Counties Manukau	605	183	Outbreak ongoing
Waikato	24	7	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Lakes	9	4	Isolated cases and Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Bay of Plenty	29	2	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Tairāwhiti	0	0	-
Taranaki	6	3	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Hawke's Bay	3	0	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Whanganui	0	0	-
MidCentral	2	1	Auckland link, single case
Hutt Valley	7	0	No recent cases
Capital and Coast	12	0	Auckland link, single case
Wairarapa	1	0	No recent cases
Nelson-Marlborough	0	0	-
West Coast	0	0	-
Canterbury	41	0	No recent cases
South Canterbury	1	0	No recent cases
Southern	8	5	Auckland link ongoing, local spread
Total	1059	301	

Appendix 2

Figure 1. Cases of measles in the Auckland region to 6 September 2019

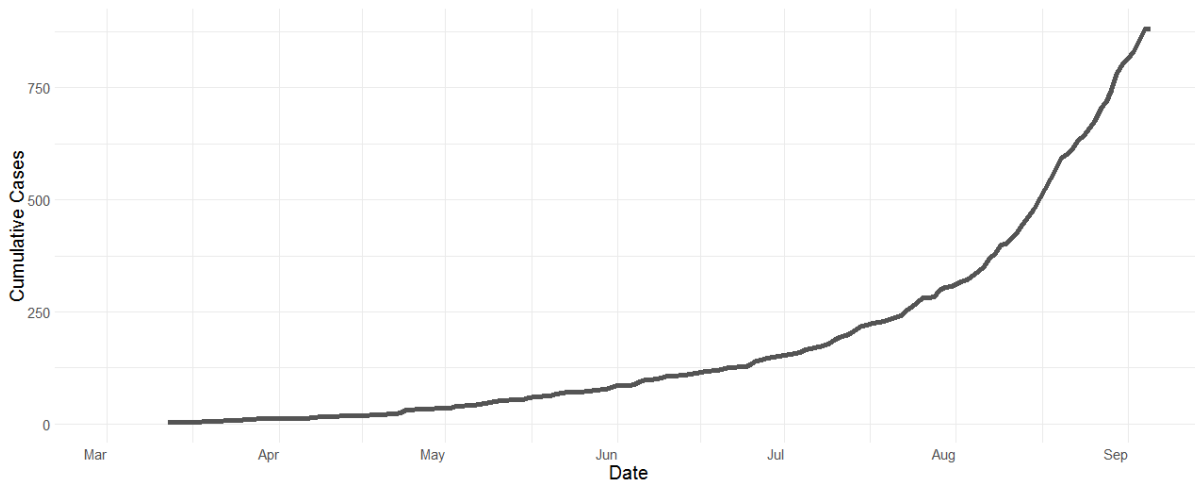


Figure 2. Exponential modelling of cases in Auckland per week up to 15 September

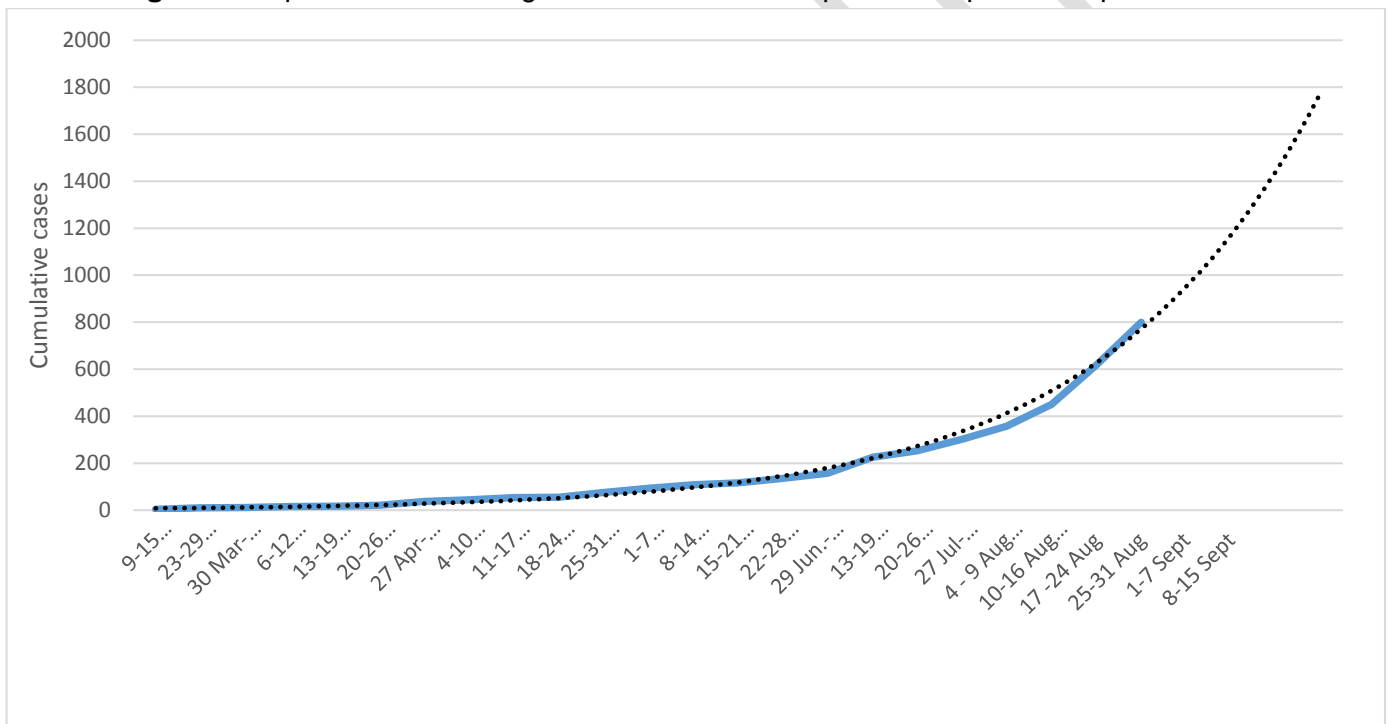


Figure 3. Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since March 2019

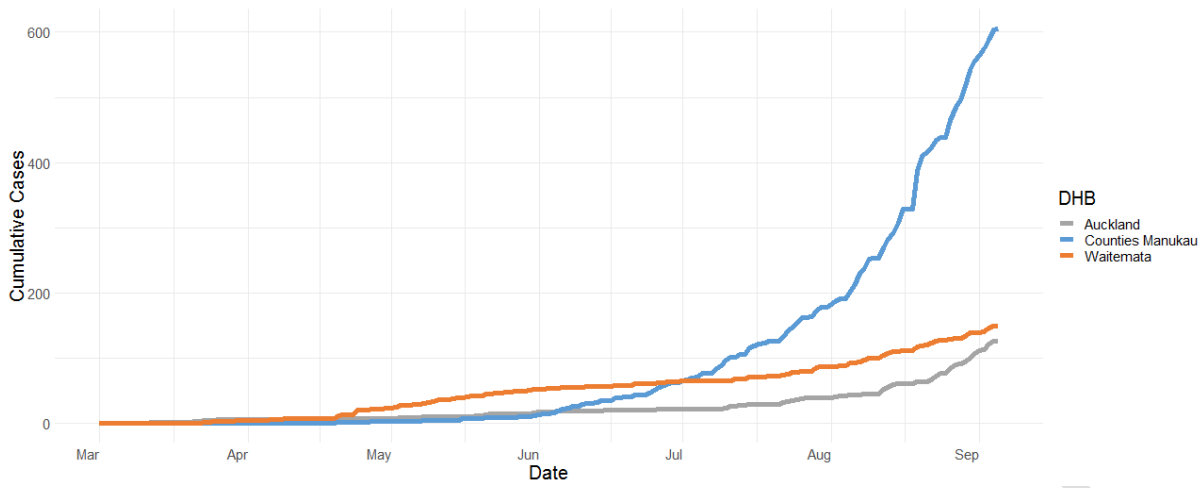
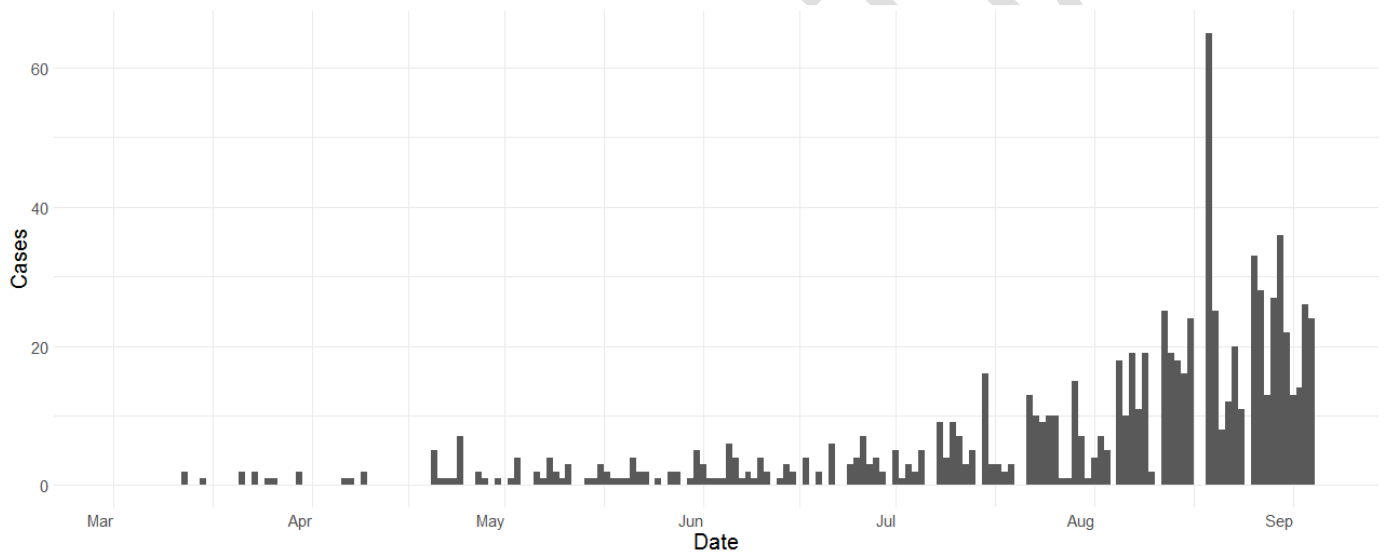


Figure 4. Number of cases of measles confirmed per day. *Please note that cases over the weekend are normally cumulatively notified to the Ministry on a Monday.*



Appendix 3. CMDHB vaccination clinic daily data

1. Vaccination Clinic Daily Data - Middlemore Hospital Opportunistic Vaccination Clinic ED

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/09/19					1		2	2		1	3		9	N
24/9/19					1		1	3			2	8	15	N
25/8/19								6	1	1	1	2	11	N
26/8/19						1	3		2	2		1	9	N
27/8/19					1			1	3			3	8	N
28/8/19						1		7	2		3	1	14	N
29/8/19							3			2	3		8	N
30/8/19				1			2	2	4		6	2	17	N
31/8/19			1				2	1	7	2	1	9	23	N
1/9/19			1					3	4	3	1	6	18	N
2/9/19	1	1						4	6		2	8	22	N
3/9/19		1				2	3	1	4	1	4	13	29	N
TOTAL:													183	

3. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Outreach, Plunket/Clendon

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/8/19	2	1	0										3	
24/8/19	3	7	4										14	
26/8/19	3	2	0				1	2		1			9	
27/8/19	2	2	0					6			1		11	
28/8/19	5	4	0				4	4			2	1	20	
29/8/19	3		2				7	7	3	13	16	17	68	
30/8/19		1	1	4	1			6		3	5	6	27	
31/8/19										2		2	4	
1/9/19														
2/9/19	4	1	2	1	9	4	3	12	4	5	7	11	63	
3/9/19	8	2	2	1	6	1	4	8		8	14	20	74	
TOTAL:													293	

5. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Free Church of Tonga – One off drop in clinic

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
31/8/19	1	3	2		5			16	7	2	19	13	68	N
TOTAL:													68	

6. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Manurewa High School – One off clinic

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
3/9/19				4	3	6	8	22	30	2	5	11	91	N
TOTAL:													91	