

9(2)(a)



Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 – OIA2022101801

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 18 October 2022 for information relating to *Paediatric accreditation*. Specifically:

1. *Wellington Hospital used to be an accredited unit for training paediatric surgeons and had one accredited position. Does that position still exist and if not, what has been put in place to provide paediatric expertise on the ground?*
2. *When is Wellington Hospital next due for inspection by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons regarding this accreditation?*
3. *Is the hospital still recruiting for paediatric surgeons and if not, when will newly appointed staff be in place?*
4. *Can you also provide a summary of the costs for flying paediatric surgeons from Christchurch and Waikato hospitals to Wellington to fill the gaps in Wellington's paed surgery roster, broken down by travel costs, accommodation and locum fees.*

Please provide information in a searchable format. If part of this request is refused I would like a written reason why.

Response

1. *Wellington Hospital used to be an accredited unit for training paediatric surgeons and had one accredited position. Does that position still exist and if not, what has been put in place to provide paediatric expertise on the ground?*

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) has one SET training post in paediatric surgery accredited in Wellington, but has indicated this post will not be allocated to a SET trainee until the newly appointed paediatric surgeons have commenced work and can provide the necessary training and support.

2. *When is Wellington Hospital next due for inspection by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons regarding this accreditation?*

The RACS' next accreditation inspection is anticipated in early 2024 once two of the new surgeons have started, but in time to enable a SET trainee to be allocated in 2025 if the service meets the inspection criteria. Infrastructure improvements and the additional staffing in place by then will inform the decision around the hospital's suitability for specialty training. In the interim, Paediatric Surgery at Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley District is an SMO (Senior Medical Officer) run service, with at least one Paediatric Surgeon available 24/7, which continues to provide expert level care for local and regional children.

3. *Is the hospital still recruiting for paediatric surgeons and if not, when will newly appointed staff be in place?*

Recruitment of paediatric surgeons has been challenging, but Wellington Hospital has recently successfully recruited three excellent surgeons. The first is expected to start in July 2023, the second in November 2023 and the third about a year later. Two of the three new paediatric surgeons are from overseas and one from New Zealand is completing fellowship training. The overseas trained surgeons require some time to wind up their current clinical practices which means that the arrival of the three surgeons will be staggered over the next two years.

4. *Can you also provide a summary of the costs for flying paediatric surgeons from Christchurch and Waikato hospitals to Wellington to fill the gaps in Wellington's paed surgery roster, broken down by travel costs, accommodation and locum fees.*

The costs incurred to bring surgeons from other centres to Wellington are no more than the costs of the full staff levels in Wellington.

Here is a response to your request for a summary of the costs from 04/04/2022 to 31/09/2022 for flying paediatric surgeons from Christchurch and Waikato hospitals to Wellington to fill the gaps in Wellington's paediatric surgery roster, broken down by travel costs, accommodation and locum fees.

Locum Paediatric Surgeons fees	\$443,000
Travel - Accommodation - Meals	\$60,642
Total	\$503,642

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public. Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government