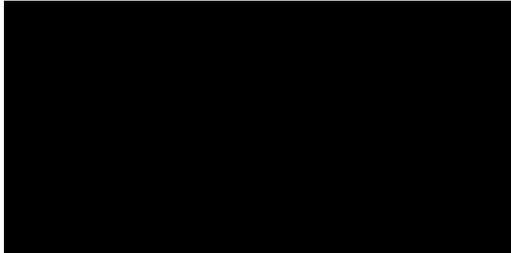


20 August 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Green Prescriptions

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 27 July 2021 requesting the following information:

I am researching for an article on Obesity.

I would appreciate it if you can send me statistics relating to the Green Prescription program from its inception (or earliest available) to the latest numbers available. Annual figures will be fine. I am looking for the numbers of prescriptions received and completion rates. I have reached out to the Green Prescription teams directly without success.

Response

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about Green Prescription (GRx). A GRx is a health professional's written advice to a patient to be physically active, as part of the patient's health management. The Ministry information on Green Prescribing notes that (link below):

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/physical-activity/green-prescriptions/how-green-prescription-works>

GRx began in 1998. The initiative was transferred from Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) in 2009 to the Ministry of Health (MOH) with the expectation in future that funding would be more closely aligned with other services helping manage long term conditions.

On 1 July 2012 the Ministry devolved GRx funding and management to district health boards (DHBs) to enable better co-ordination of initiatives at a regional level and fit with plans for better integration of health services.

The MOH retained nationally consistent service specifications and reporting requirements until 2017.

Therefore, as mentioned above, Auckland DHB only has programme data from 2012 onwards. The MOH reporting template that the DHB used from 2012 until 2017 recorded the number of referrals but did not record the number of completions or graduations. Please note that the number of referrals received during this period does not reflect the number of people that participated in the programme as some referred people were unable to be contacted or declined taking part in the programme.

Table 1, GRx referral data from July 2012 to June 2017 for Auckland DHB

Year	Number of Referrals
2012-13	3622
2013-14	4019
2014-15	6062
2015-16	4908
2016-17	5390

In 2016-17 the reporting requirements changed from referrals received to reporting on engaged clients to provide more meaningful data. We also included “graduations” as a reporting requirement (those who were independently active when they completed the programme).

Table 2, GRx engaged and graduate data from July 2017 to June 2021 for Auckland DHB

Year	Number of engaged clients	Number independently active graduates
2017-18	4316	1188*
2018-19	4398	1518
2019-20	3623	1363
2020-21	3886	1109

* This data is for Q2 – Q4 only, as the data wasn’t reported in Q1.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE

Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)