

9 February 2022

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Re: Official Information Act request – Bed availability- Aged Residential Care / general hospital beds - ADHB Ref: 20220119-1140

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 19 January 2022 requesting the following information:

The Ministry of Health has informed me that in some areas, external and internal pressure has reduced the number of beds available for age residential care, and I am looking to discover what areas have been affected by this.

With that in mind, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982.

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**
- 2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?**
- 3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of age residential care beds available?**
- 4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?**
- 5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?**
- 6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?**

Response

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**

Aged residential care (ARC) facilities are private entities that are certified by the Ministry of Health and then contracted by the DHB to provide this service. The DHB does not contract for a set number of beds and has very limited ability to change or reduce the number of beds available within the DHB catchment area.

2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?

Using the quarterly bed survey, the number of ARC beds available within the Auckland DHB catchment area on 31 March 2020 was 4,100 and the number available on 30 September 2021 (most recent quarterly bed survey) was 4,215; an increase of 115 beds.

3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of age residential care beds available?

There was no reduction in the total number of ARC beds available within the Auckland DHB catchment area.

4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?

No, Auckland DHB opened a new ward in Auckland City Hospital in October 2020. This increased our overall bed count by 41, giving us a total of 728 general hospital beds. Please note that this is a physical count of bed spaces. The number of resourced (staffed) beds available for use varies depending on staff availability and patient demand.

5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?

Not applicable.

6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?

In March 2020 we had 687 available general hospital beds. Currently, we have 728 general hospital beds. This excludes emergency department trolleys, clinical decision unit beds, procedure rooms on wards, day case beds, critical care and high dependency beds and beds in paediatric and maternity services.

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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire
Chief Executive