

18 February 2022

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Re: Official Information Act request – NZREX Data - ADHB Ref: 20211216-1152

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 2 February 2022 requesting the following information:

1. Total number of PGY1 positions filled through ACE matching process from 2014-2020? Could you please provide me those numbers broken down by year?
2. Total number of PGY1 positions filled by NZREX doctors from 2014-2020? Numbers broken down by year.
3. Total number of PGY1 positions filled by IMGs from Comparable Health countries from 2014-2020?
4. Do you have any preference criteria for PGY1 job hiring candidates? How does the DHB prioritise NZREX candidates?
5. There was a program for NZREX doctors training in the Auckland DHB but that has discontinued now? Can you please share the scope/intent of the program and what was the outcome?
6. Is there any support program available for NZREX doctors to get the PGY1 jobs?

Response

Please note:

- Prior to 2021, the House Officer training year which includes PGY1 positions commenced in November each year.
- In 2020, the RMO training year dates changed from November each year to January each year. As part of the transition this resulted in the end date for the 2019/2020 training year being changed from 29/11/2020 to 17/01/2021.
- The ACE matching process is completed prior to the commencement of the RMO training year and in responding to this OIA request we have provided details on which training year the ACE process relates to for the year specified.
- The training year dates covered by the information requested in the OIA were as follows:

Training Year	Dates	ACE Process (Year)
2014/2015 Training Year	25/11/2014 to 23/11/2015	2014
2015/2016 Training Year	23/11/2015 to 27/11/2016	2015
2016/2017 Training Year	28/11/2016 to 26/11/2017	2016
2017/2018 Training Year	27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017
2018/2019 Training Year	26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018
2019/2020 Training Year	25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019
2021 Training Year	18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020

1. Total number of PGY1 positions filled through ACE matching process from 2014-2020? Could you please provide me those numbers broken down by year

The table below provides the number of PGY1 positions filled through the ACE matching process from 2014 to 2020.

Training Year	ACE Process (Year)	Auckland DHB PGY1 positions filled through ACE
24/11/2014 to 22/11/2015	2014	43
23/11/2015 to 27/11/2016	2015	46
28/11/2016 to 26/11/2017	2016	52
27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017	51
26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018	60
25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019	59
18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020	64

2. Total number of PGY1 positions filled by NZREX doctors from 2014-2020? Numbers broken down by year.

For consistency in answering this question the year has been aligned to the ACE process and training year dates, although NZREX were appointed outside of the ACE process.

Training Year	ACE Process (Year)	Auckland DHB PGY1 Positions filled by NZREX
25/11/2014 to 23/11/2015	2014	2
23/11/2015 to 27/11/2016	2015	3
28/11/2016 to 26/11/2017	2016	1
27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017	5
26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018	0
25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019	4
18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020	2

3. Total number of PGY1 positions filled by IMGs from Comparable Health countries from 2014-2020?

Training Year	ACE Process (Year)	Auckland DHB PGY1 Positions filled by IMGs from CHS
25/11/2014 to 23/11/2015	2014	0

23/11/2015 to 27/11/2016	2015	1
28/11/2016 to 26/11/2017	2016	0
27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017	2
26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018	0
25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019	0
18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020	0

The PGY1 positions filled by International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from Comparable Health countries (CHS) from 2014-2020 were Australian Medical Graduates. When determining comparable health countries we have used the Medical Council of New Zealand list of comparable health countries. This excludes any PGY1 positions filled by NZREX.

4. Do you have any preference criteria for PGY1 job hiring candidates? How does the DHB prioritise NZREX candidates?

Recruitment for RMO positions is undertaken regionally across the three Auckland metro DHBs (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata DHBs) and this is facilitated by the Northern Regional Alliance.

- Once a year the nationwide annual recruitment cycle (ARC) is used to coordinate external advertising for House Officer positions at PGY2/PGY2+ levels. Once a year the Auckland region recruits all of the required PGY1 positions via the ACE RMO process.
- PGY1 positions are reserved initially for New Zealand graduates from medical schools via the ACE process. Information regarding the national ACE matching process can be found on the ACE website <https://rmo.acenz.net.nz/>
- From time to time vacancies occur at PGY1 level during the training year and outside of the ACE process. NZREX graduates are considered where suitable for such vacancies. NZREX doctors are encouraged to register online at www.aucklanddoctors.co.nz and maintain an up-to-date CV and details to enable them to be considered when vacancies become available.
- Available vacant positions are advertised throughout the year on the Auckland Doctors website.

Prioritisation of preference criteria for any additional PGY1 positions not filled via the ACE match, involves reviewing the ACE talent pool of non-matched ACE candidates, in the order of:

- Category 1 - graduates from NZ Medical schools who are citizens of NZ or Australia
- Category 2 - graduates from Australian medical schools who are citizens or permanent residents of NZ or Australia
- Category 3 - graduates from NZ medical schools but are not permanent residents or citizens
- NZREX applicants are prioritised on the basis of NZ Citizen/Permanent resident status

5. There was a program for NZREX doctors training in the Auckland DHB but that has discontinued now? Can you please share the scope/intent of the program and what was the outcome?

We have searched for information on this discontinued programme and do not hold any information on it. We can however advise that the programme was called Readiness to Work. It was taught out of Auckland DHB and was regional. It was for doctors who had passed NZREX and were looking for employment as PGY1 house officers. Readiness to Work was to help them adjust to the NZ medical system and to re-orientate them to medical practice (as some had not worked as doctors for several years). The programme was funded by Health Workforce NZ and thus ended once that funding finished. It was funded and run because at the time there was a shortage of interns in Auckland.

We are refusing that part of your request seeking information on the outcome of the programme as Auckland DHB does not hold this information. We do so under s16(e) of the Official Information Act.

Any further information may be held by the Medical Council of New Zealand.

6. Is there any support program available for NZREX doctors to get the PGY1 jobs?

There is no such support program.

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 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, OBE

Chief Executive, Te Toka Tumai Auckland District Health Board.