

30 October 2019

Mike Kernaghan  
Chief Executive  
Cancer Society



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003  
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

**Via email:** [mike@cancer.org.nz](mailto:mike@cancer.org.nz)

Dear Mr Kernaghan

### **Official Information Act Request – Lymphoedema Services**

On 3 October 2019, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

1. Does your DHB currently have a specified lymphoedema services?
2. What services are provided for patients with lymphoedema in your DHB?
3. How much funding is allocated for lymphoedema services within your DHB annually? Also, please include % of total budget. Please provide information for the last 3-5 years.
4. How many FTEs are allocated in your DHB for lymphoedema therapists?
5. How many lymphoedema therapist position vacancies have you had over the past year?
6. Does this service provide publicly funded lymphoedema services for cancer patients/ survivors?
7. What is the eligibility criteria to access lymphoedema service for cancer patients/survivors in your DHB?
8. Please list lymphoedema services / procedures available/ offered for cancer patients/ survivors in your DHB (including education and early signs detection).
9. Is there a funded provision for compression garments in your DHB? If so, please specify what provision is funded (how many sets of compression garments per year).
10. How can cancer patients/survivors access lymphoedema services in your DHB? Do they need a referral and who can provide the referral?
11. What is the average waiting time for cancer patients/ survivors to access lymphoedema services within your DHB?
12. If you currently provide a lymphoedema service, what is the current waiting list status in your DHB? How many people are currently awaiting appointments? How many days is the waiting list currently at?
13. Is there a protocol on pre and post-surgery lymphoedema surveillance in your DHB and if so could you please provide it?

### **Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

**1. Does your DHB currently have a specified lymphoedema services?**

Yes, provided by the Physiotherapy department.

**2. What services are provided for patients with lymphoedema in your DHB?**

Assessment, treatment (skin care, exercise and compression) and education.

3. How much funding is allocated for lymphoedema services within your DHB annually? Also, please include % of total budget. Please provide information for the last 3-5 years.

**Budget for compression bandages and garments**

Year ending June	Budget Lymphoedema compression supplies \$	Actual Lymphoedema compression supplies \$	Total Actual Clinical Supplies \$	% Lymphoedema Supplies budget
2016	25,972	25,353	47,650	53%
2017	29,575	39,188	69,169	57%
2018	38,304	41,538	69,963	59%
2019	48,306	49,424	72,691	68%

4. How many FTEs are allocated in your DHB for lymphoedema therapists?

0.3 FTE – Physiotherapist.

5. How many lymphoedema therapist position vacancies have you had over the past year?

No vacancies for this service over the past year.

One of our Lymphoedema therapist retired in August this year.

The responsibility for this service has now been allocated to another therapist within the department.

6. Does this service provide publicly funded lymphoedema services for cancer patients/survivors?

Yes, any patient who have a diagnosis of Lymphoedema regardless of other conditions.

7. What is the eligibility criteria to access lymphoedema service for cancer patients/survivors in your DHB?

A lymphoedema diagnosis from the General Practitioner or specialist.

8. Please list lymphoedema services / procedures available/ offered for cancer patients/survivors in your DHB (including education and early signs detection).

From Physiotherapy perspective

Physiotherapy Clinical Assessment, treatment, education and any referrals to GPs for patients accepted to our service.

9. Is there a funded provision for compression garments in your DHB? If so, please specify what provision is funded (how many sets of compression garments per year).

Yes, 1 set per year per client.

**10. How can cancer patients/survivors access lymphoedema services in your DHB? Do they need a referral and who can provide the referral?**

Referral from GP or specialist services (this includes clinical nurse specialists).

**11. What is the average waiting time for cancer patients/ survivors to access lymphoedema services within your DHB?**

Not all our lymphoedema patients are cancer survivors. All patients have been seen within 3 months over the past year.

**12. If you currently provide a lymphoedema service, what is the current waiting list status in your DHB? How many people are currently awaiting appointments? How many days is the waiting list currently at?**

9 patients waiting (3, 10, 16, 29, 36, 36, 38, 57 and 70 days).

**13. Is there a protocol on pre and post-surgery lymphoedema surveillance in your DHB and if so could you please provide it?**

Not in Physiotherapy department.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Deanne Holden at [deanne.holden@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:deanne.holden@wdhb.org.nz)

Yours sincerely



Lucy Adams  
**Acting Chief Executive**