

21 August 2020

Jo Leavesley  
RNZ

**Via email:** Jo.Leavesley@rnz.co.nz



Dear Jo

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

### **Official Information Act Request – OIA 13002 Overdue Dental Cases**

Under section 14 of the Official Information Act, the Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) received a partial transfer of your request from the Ministry of Health on 21 July 2020. You requested the following information in relation to overdue dental cases.

"I'm keen to get a picture of how COVID-19 has impacted on the community oral health service for pre-school and primary school children.

1) Can you please let me know the current percentage of overdue cases across the Northern, Midland, Central and Southern regions– and how that compares to the past two years. What are the longest wait times? Where are they?

#### **Whanganui District Health Board response:**

**The current percentage of overdue cases across the Northern, Midland, Central and Southern regions– and how that compares to the past two years. What are the longest wait times? Where are they?**

#### **2019/2020**

We currently have 16% of the preschool to year 8 patient group overdue in the Whanganui DHB area. The majority of these children became overdue during the March/April lockdown period, and come from all parts of the Whanganui area, both rural and city. One child has been waiting for 9 months, while another 13 children are overdue by 5 months. These fourteen children are overdue as a result of non-attendance at appointments or unavailability for appointments.

#### **2018/2019**

4% overdue – 6 months overdue for 5 children

#### **2017/2018**

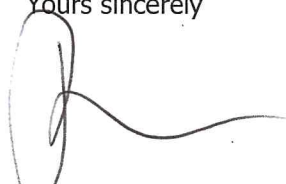
2% overdue – 11 months overdue for 1 child; 6 months overdue for 8 children

#### **2016/2017**

3% overdue – 8 months overdue for 2; 6 months or less overdue for 40

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**

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