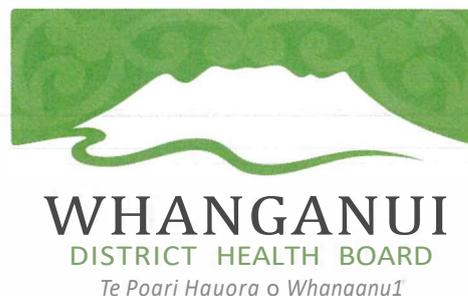


15 February 2021

Nicholas Jones

Via email: Nicholas.Jones@nzme.co.nz



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

Dear Nicholas

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13321 Eye Screening

On 19 January 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

For 2020, the number of screens for diabetic retinopathy purchased, the number of screens delivered, and the DNA rate.

The estimated number of people living with diabetes within the DHB.

How many diabetic retinopathy screening episodes were delivered during lockdown, and how long any disruption lasted (i.e when did screening return to 'normal').

On January 1 2021, how many new referrals were on the wait list for their first screening visit, the average time spent on this wait list, and the longest individual time spent waiting.

On January 1 2021, how many existing patients were overdue for their follow up screening appointment, the average overdue time, and the longest individual time overdue.

The information sought in this request is to be used as part of a report by the New Zealand Herald into diabetic retinopathy screening services, including how Covid-19 disruption affected them and any backlogs.

Please provide any comment the DHB wishes to make in this context/about the current situation and information provided.

This request is being sent to all DHBs.

I anticipate receiving the information under the terms of the act, which stipulates a maximum period of 20 business days.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

- **For 2020, the number of screens for diabetic retinopathy purchased, the number of screens delivered, and the DNA rate.**

For the fiscal year 2019/2020 1,504 diabetic retinal screenings were budgeted to be performed by the Whanganui Hospital.

In the calendar year 2020 1,643 screenings were performed. There were an additional 470 bookings that did not attend (DNA).

Chief Executive I Phone 06 348 3140 \ Fax 06 345 9390

- **The estimated number of people living with diabetes within the DHB.**

We are not able to answer this question as accurate information is not available.

- **How many diabetic retinopathy screening episodes were delivered during lockdown, and how long any disruption lasted (i.e when did screening return to 'normal').**

There were no diabetic retinopathy screening sessions at Whanganui District Health Board during lockdown. The last diabetic retinopathy clinic was held on the 23rd March 2020. The first diabetic retinopathy clinic following shutdown was on the 18th May 2020.

- **On January 1 2021, how many new referrals were on the wait list for their first screening visit, the average time spent on this wait list, and the longest individual time spent waiting.**

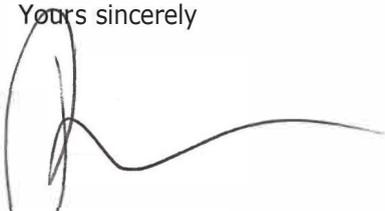
As at 1-Jan-2021 there were 127 still waiting to attend their first appointment. The average time on the waiting list as at 1-Jan-2021 was 83 days, the longest time was 355 days.

- **On January 1 2021, how many existing patients were overdue for their follow up screening appointment, the average overdue time, and the longest individual time overdue.**

As at 1-Jan-2021 seven patients were overdue their follow-up appointments, of these patients six had cancelled a booked appointment and one had a booked appointment cancelled by the clinics clinician.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Simpson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive