

10 March 2021

Leah Bain
PO Box 11-243
Wellington

Via email: leah@pha.org.nz



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

Dear Leah

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13366 Living Wage

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

"The living wage movement is a global campaign to ensure workers have the necessities of life and can participate as active citizens in the communities they work, play and love. The living wage covers the basics such as food, shelter, utilities, transport, health care and childcare with a small buffer for unforeseen events. The calculation assumes two adults working for 60 hours per week with two children. In Aotearoa the living wage is calculated independently each year by the New Zealand Family Centre Social Policy Unit. Our Living Wage hourly rate for 2020/21 is \$22.10.

Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA)]:

1. Is your DHB currently a registered living wage employer?
 - a. If yes what factors influenced that decision
2. Are your contractors/sub-contractors currently living wage employers?
 - a. Do you require them to be?
3. Does your DHB currently have plans to become a living wage employer?
 - a. If so can you describe how far you have progressed?
4. What do you see as the obstacles to becoming a living wage employer?"

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

1 Is WDHB currently a registered living wage Employer?

No.

a) If yes, what factors influenced that decision?

Not Applicable.

2 Are your contractors/sub-contractors currently living wage employers?

Not all contractors/sub-contractors are living wage employers. Many of our contractors employ a regulated workforce with agreed union arrangements.

a) Do you require them to be?

No, we do not contractually require all contractors/sub-contractors to be living wage employers.

Staff of large on-site contractors and sub-contractors are paid a minimum of the living wage.

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390

3. Does your DHB currently have plans to become a living wage employer?

Yes. Reducing the gap between lowest and highest income earners is a priority for the WDHB.

a.) If so can you describe how far you have progressed?

By the end of 2021 the WDHB should have less than 2% of **staff** that are not paid a minimum of the living wage.

4. What do you see as the obstacles to becoming a living wage employer?"

Any discussions about the living wage would progress in line with government expectations and through discussions with health sector unions.

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, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive