

13 August 2019

Michelle Duff  
National Correspondent  
Stuff



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

By email to [michelle.duff@stuff.co.nz](mailto:michelle.duff@stuff.co.nz)

Dear Michelle

**Official Information Act request – Maternity FTE, vacancies and staffing concerns**

On 22 July 2019 under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from district health boards:

This is an Official Information Act request for the number of full and part time staff currently employed in the maternity ward at your District Health Board. Please separate these by job title ie. midwife, senior midwife, obstetrician, nurse etc.

I also request the number of positions that exist or need to be filled - ie. If there are 20 midwife positions but 10 are currently filled, please state this, and also the length of time the position has been open for.

Please also provide any reports or information - including internal memos etc - into staffing problems within the maternity ward, and any issues with recruitment, in the past two years. This includes reports of any adverse events where staffing was identified as an issue.

I also request any complaints or matters of concern raised by maternity ward staff to management about problems or incidents arising from or related to a lack of staffing within the maternity ward.

***Whanganui DHB response:***

- 1. The number of full and part time staff currently employed in the maternity ward at your District Health Board. Please separate these by job title ie. midwife, senior midwife, obstetrician, nurse etc.**

*Please refer to the table below:*

Job title	Full Time	Part Time
Administration	1	1
Healthcare assistant		3
Midwife	1	16
Nurse		1
Obstetrician and gynaecologist	3	1
Senior midwife	2	1

- 2. The number of positions that exist or need to be filled - ie. If there are 20 midwife positions but 10 are currently filled, please state this, and also the length of time the position has been open for.**

Budget FTE = 17.01

Actual FTE contracted = 15.62

Permanent - 0.5 FTE Registered Midwives – currently advertised (3 weeks)

Fixed term - 0.8 FTE Registered Midwife – applications now closed (Friday 2 August 2019) and interview process to commence.

- 3. Any reports or information - including internal memos etc - into staffing problems within the maternity ward, and any issues with recruitment.**

Nil – staffing problems

Recruitment issues remains with overall lack of supply nationally.

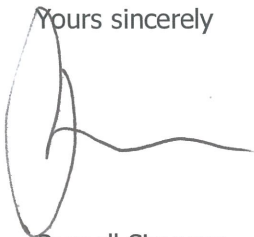
- 4. Any complaints or matters of concern raised by maternity ward staff to management about problems or incidents arising from or related to a lack of staffing within the maternity ward.**

Nil.

Please attribute this information to Ms Lucy Adams, Director of Nursing.

If you have any further queries, please contact our OIA coordinator in the first instance: [OIA@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:OIA@wdhb.org.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**