



133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

29 May 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024041333

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 13 May 2024 for information regarding abortion health service providers and pharmacies dispensing Early Medical Abortion (EMA) medication. You requested:

“I am writing to inquire about the availability of abortion services and pharmacies in Auckland that dispense Early Medical Abortion (EMA) medication. I understand that under the 2020 reform of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977, some pharmacies may choose to stock and dispense EMA medication. I would be grateful if you could provide me with a list of: Abortion services in Auckland: This could include clinics, hospitals, or other healthcare providers offering abortion services. Pharmacies in Auckland that dispense EMA medication: Please let me know if there is a list available or if you have any information on how to find out which pharmacies offer this service. Please note that I am aware that some pharmacies may choose not to dispense EMA medication due to conscientious objections.”

Under section 18(1) of the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act 1977 the Director-General of Health has a duty to compile, maintain and make available a list of abortion health care service providers. You can access providers that wish to be publicly listed on the DECIDE website at: www.decide.org.nz/en/find-a-provider/.

Please note that providers have the option to withhold their details and can request to not be listed on the DECIDE website under section 18(2) of the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act 1977. The details of providers who do not wish to be listed are withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment.

EMA medications are prescribed by registered health practitioners who provide abortion health care services. The Ministry holds a list of pharmacists who are willing to dispense

mifepristone and misoprostol; however, this does not indicate that they have dispensed or currently dispense this medication. The names of the pharmacists are withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Ruihua Gu
**Acting Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
Regulation and Monitoring | Te Pou Whakamaru**