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23 July 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref:

Tēnā koe s 9(2)

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 24 June 2024 for information regarding Rongoā Māori. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

From 2020/21 to 2022/23 what has been spent and what, if any, is budgeted for in 2023/24 for:

Rongoā Māori provision and/or traditional Māori healing systems.

Goods and services related to rongoā Māori/or traditional Māori healing system provision, including, karakia and/or rākau rongoā (native flora herbal preparations) and/or mirimiri (bodywork) and/or wai and/or waiata and/or himene and/or ngahere and/or whenua.

What is the accreditation/training regimen for Rongoā Māori and/or traditional Māori healing practitioners?

In each year, since 2020/21 to 2023/24 (year to date), how many patients by region have been treated by Rongoā Māori and/or traditional Māori healing practitioners?

Who are the top five providers of rongoā Māori/or traditional Māori healing systems by monetary value (including the number of persons treated) since 2020/21 to 2023/24 (year to date)?

In each year, since 2020/21 to 2023/24 (year to date), what broad health specialty description or service, have Rongoā Māori and/or traditional Māori healing practitioners treated patients for?

Information relating to these parts of your request are more closely connected with the functions and responsibilities of Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora (HNZ). As you have made the same request to HNZ a transfer of these parts of your request under section 14 of the Act was not necessary. You can expect a response from the Health New Zealand in due course (HNZ00053896 refers).

Further to (6), what has been the actual cost of staff or contractors or consultants in each year from 2020/21 to 2022/23 and what, if any, is the budgeted cost for 2023/24? In each year, since 2020/21 to 2023/24 (year to date), how many staff or contractors or consultants have been employed or engaged by the Ministry relating to Rongoā Māori and/or traditional Māori healing systems?

I refer you to the table below which shows the number contractors and consultants employed by the Ministry to work on Rongoā Māori along with the costs. It is important to note that the majority of work in this area is done by staff already within the Ministry. However, the Ministry on occasions does employ contractors and consultants for specific pieces of work that require expertise and capability not held by staff within the Ministry.

Financial Year	Number of contractors/consultants	Total cost
2020/21	1	\$77,500
2021/22	1	\$4,000
2022/23	4	\$105,950
2023/24	0	nil

Since 2020/21 what reports, briefings, memos, reports or analysis by date and title, have been conducted on Rongoā Māori and/or traditional Māori healing practitioners?

The Ministry has provided extensive advice on Rongoā Māori. This advice is publicly available on the Ministry's website and can be found on the following links below:

- www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/release-ministerial-decision-making-documents/documents-relating-therapeutic-products-regulatory-regime.
- www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/release-ministerial-decision-making-documents/documents-related-rongoa-workstream-therapeutic-products-regulatory-regime.
- www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/regulatory-impact-statements/regulation-rongoa-and-small-scale-producers-natural-health-products-under-therapeutic-products-bill.
- www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/regulating-natural-health-products-cab-paper-redacted.pdf.
- www.health.govt.nz/publication/summary-report-rongoa-workstream.
- www.health.govt.nz/publication/review-ministry-health-funded-rongoa-sector.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Whaanga', with a horizontal line underneath.

John Whaanga
Deputy Director-General
Māori Health | Te Pou Hauora Māori