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18 December 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024056908

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 23 November 2024 for information regarding emergency management. You requested:

- *Please outline the plan and timeline to update the outdated frameworks/policies/standards, including the national health emergency plan, update and make the outdated ambulance standards available publicly, outline the timeline to develop an integrated hospital and out-of-hospital emergency plan.*
- *Provide details of how these plans integrate with the national emergency management system (CIMS), and the system for hospital and pre-hospital services to integrate with NEMA (who manage CIMS).*
- *Please also provide copies of health (hospital or pre-hospital) emergency management plans/guidelines for weather events, power outages, natural disasters, pandemics and any other scenarios that have been developed.*
- *Provide copies of any risk assessments that relate to these*

The Ministry's Emergency Management function serves as steward and monitor across the health system to ensure the Ministry meets its legislative obligations under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

A revision and update of the National Emergency Plan is part of the Ministry's 2024/25 work programme. The work is likely to continue into the 2025/26 financial year and will incorporate catastrophic event planning and align with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) led Emergency Management Improvement Project.

The Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) is the government mandated doctrinal framework for responding to multi-agency incidents at any scale. CIMS is the equivalent of the Australian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMs) in Australia, or the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in the United States and has been customised for use in New Zealand. All government agencies (including health) apply the framework. Further information about CIMS is available on the New Zealand Civil Defence website at: www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/documents/cims/CIMS-3rd-edition-FINAL-Aug-2019.pdf.

The Ministry does not hold information about hospital and ambulance standards. In particular the Ministry does not hold "*copies of health (hospital or pre-hospital) emergency management plans/guidelines for weather events, power outages, natural disasters, pandemics and any other scenarios that have been developed.*" or associated risk assessments under section 18(g)(ii) of the Act. Please note, the Ministry consulted with Health New Zealand (HNZ) – Te Whatu Ora on a transfer of this part of your request. However, HNZ has advised it was unable to accept a transfer as this does not cover the parameters of HNZ's work. You may wish to contact HNZ at: hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz for further information about specific plans.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Jones', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Jones
Director Emergency Management
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui