



27 May 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about maternity services.

*I would like to request a copy of your DHB's 2020 Maternity Quality and Safety Report which the Ministry of Health says should have been published on your website in March 2021.*

The report is publicly available on Northland DHB's website via the following link.  
<https://www.northlanddhb.org.nz/assets/Publications/Maternity-Quality-and-Safety-Programme-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

*I would also like copies of correspondence between your DHB/the PMMRC/ Ministry of Health about the high rate of neonatal encephalopathy and/or stillbirth.*

There is no correspondence between Northland DHB, the PMMRC (other than the letter of 9 February 2021 from [REDACTED] to me) and the Ministry of Health regarding data in the Perinatal Maternal Mortality Review Committee's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report.

*I would also like an explanation from your DHB about why it has a high rate of neonatal encephalopathy and/or stillbirths and what is being done to lower it.*

Information is contained in Northland DHB's 2020 Maternity Quality and Safety Report. Of note:

- All cases are reviewed at our monthly multi-disciplinary mortality and morbidity (M&M) meetings which are attended by both maternity and paediatric staff, either in person or by videoconference. Any contributory factors and learning outcomes are robustly discussed and collectively developed
- A pamphlet explaining the importance of baby movements has been developed. This was based on Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) information and is available for distribution to all women in pregnancy, irrespective of their care provider
- Northland DHB has increased access to pregnancy ultrasound services. A weekly clinic has been established in the Mid-North at Bay of Islands Hospital. This is in conjunction with the weekly obstetric clinic which takes place at the same locality. There is now a daily scan clinic within the antenatal clinic at Whangarei Hospital. The enhanced access that these free clinics provide has been timely given that fees

charged by private ultrasound providers in Northland may be a barrier to many of the Northland population

- Although most maternity providers in Northland currently utilise growth charts, plans are well underway for the introduction of GAP. An introductory meeting has been held and training sessions are scheduled to commence in August 2019.
- Work on early engagement has been on-going and we are happy to report success with this. The overall number of pregnant Northland women registering with an LMC in the first trimester has increased from 47 percent to 66 percent.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at [communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
**Chief Executive**