

11 July 2022

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about palliative care services.

1. *Does your DHB have a palliative care service? If yes, what is its annual budget?*

Yes, Whangarei Hospital specialist palliative care service is provided by North Haven Hospice. The annual budget for 2021/22 is \$326,802.18.

2. *How many palliative care specialists do you employ?*

Northland DHB does not directly employ palliative care specialists. The palliative medical specialists (1.5FTE) are employed by North Haven Hospice, which is contracted to Northland DHB as noted above.

3. *How many DHB FTEs are dedicated to palliative care and what are their job titles (eg CNS, nurse practitioner, allied health)?*

Nil

4. *Do all palliative patients have access to telephone 24/7 specialist palliative care advice and support?*

Yes, via their local Hospice.

5. *Do all palliative care patients have access to visits from district nurses and General Practitioners 24/7, wherever they are located - home, care home, rural and urban?*

Hospices and district nursing services negotiate which patients would benefit from a district nursing service based on clinical need.

6. *Do all palliative patients (no matter where located) have access to assessment and care from multidisciplinary specialist palliative care teams?*

Yes. Northland DHB contracts with the four hospices across Northland which work together in a hub and spoke approach.

7. *Do all patients admitted to hospital have access to multidisciplinary specialist palliative care teams?*

Yes subject to their assessed need.

8. *How many FTEs do you have dedicated to implementation of end of life care pathways and advanced care planning?*

There are no designated roles. All of our staff work with end of life patients.

9. *When are people referred to palliative care, by whom and how close to death?*

Anyone can refer people to palliative care, but most referrals are from hospital services, general practitioners and self-referral. People can be referred at any stage of their illness/condition and the criteria is when there is active progression of disease that requires complex care above what the primary care team can provide. On average, the time from referral to death is 90 days.

10. *How much annual funding do you provide for local hospice services?*

Northland DHB funds Specialist Palliative Care Services with North Haven Hospice Society Inc, Far North Palliative & Cancer Care Charitable Trust, Hospice Mid Northland Inc, and Hospice Kaipara Inc annually, to a total value of \$4,843,621 for 2022-23.

We support 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 our response to your information request please contact our Communications Manager, in the first instance at communications@northlanddhb.org.nz.

Ngā mihi



Tracey Schiebli

Interim District Director

Te Tai Tokerau / Northern Region