



Private Bag 18
Nelson, New Zealand

14 October 2020



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information as received 10 September 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 8 October 2020, where you seek the following information:

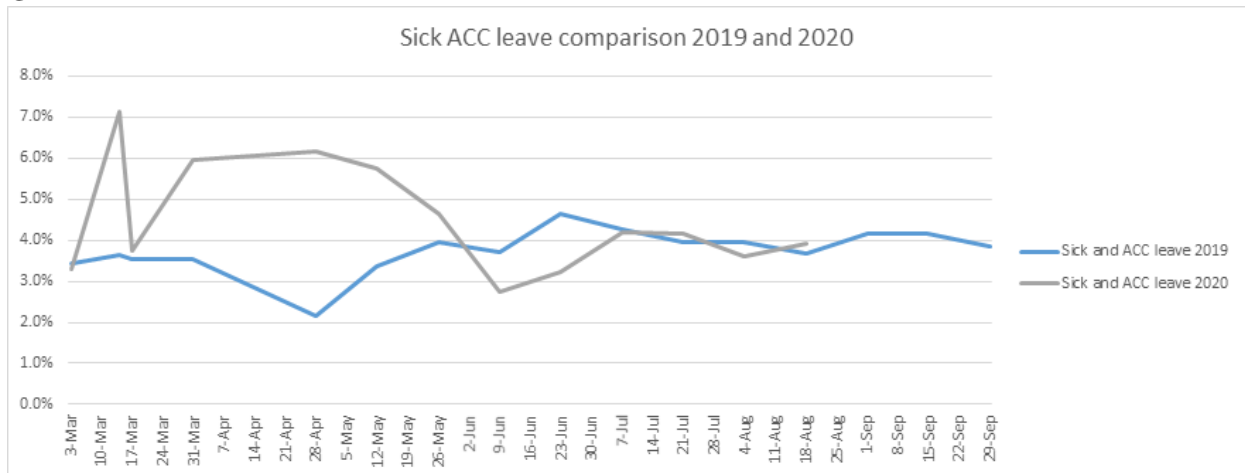
- 1. How has Covid-19 affected staffing? In terms of staying home as if the slightest bit sick.**

NMH response: Staff are following guidance to stay home if they have symptoms however, apart from during Alert Levels 3 and 4, we have not seen any variance in sick leave

- 2. What was your rate of sick leave from March - September 2019 compared to the same period 2020?**

NMH response: Graph 1 depicts Sick and ACC leave for the specified timeframe.

GRAPH 1



¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

3. How has the DHB managed this?

NMH response: Levels of absence have been moderate and existing management methods, including use of casual staff have been sufficient.

4. What was the DHB's average occupancy rate for March - September 2019 compared to the same period 2020? Can this please be broken down by month rather than lumped together.

NMH response: Tables 1 shows Adult Inpatient bed utilisation for the specified timeframe.

TABLE 1

Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
82.14%	78.35%	81.63%	84.17%	83.89%	81.56%	81.75%	69.72%	49.15%	67.24%	76.59%	79.41%	76.31%	84.73%

5. Has this resulted in the DHB having to activate an action plan or escalation plan for wards? i.e. adults being put on children wards where there is more staffing etc.

NMH response: No system wide plans have been implemented since both of the Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation (ATR) wards (Nelson and Wairau) were repurposed as isolation wards from Mar-May 2020.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Eric Sinclair
Acting Chief Executive