

31 March 2022



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 3 February 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 2 March 2022 where you seek the following information:

1. Does your DHB have a palliative care service?

NMH response:

Specialist palliative care

NMH contracts Nelson Tasman Hospice and Hospice Marlborough <https://www.nelsonhospice.org.nz/> <https://www.marlboroughhospice.org.nz/> to provide specialist palliative care, including in-reach hospital care, and the specialist team delivers education to providers to ensure patient access to good quality palliative care.

Primary palliative care

NMH District Nurses provide palliative care, and NMH supports access to general practice for primary palliative care via funding to the Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) – Nelson Bays Primary Health and Marlborough PHO.

(a) If yes, what is its annual budget?

NMH response:

Please see our response to Q10 for the cost of Hospice palliative care, noting the cost of the District Nursing palliative care function is not split from other functions that the district nursing service provides.

2. How many palliative care specialists do you employ?

NMH response:

Two Hospice Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) work across hospital and community, and District Nurses provide specialist palliative care in rural areas of the Tasman region.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

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

NMH response:

District Nurses provide palliative care, and other Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is contracted out to community providers.

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

NMH response:

Hospice provides telephone 24/7 specialist palliative care advice and support, and rural District Nurses provide 24/7 on call service to those patients at end of life.

- 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?**

NMH response:

Patients are managed under the specialist or primary palliative care teams. All primary palliative patients have access to primary and community health teams during normal business hours.

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

NMH response:

All patients assessed as needing specialist palliative care are cared for by members of a multidisciplinary specialist palliative care team.

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

NMH response:

Specialist palliative care is determined by *assessed need* rather than by diagnosis or prognosis.

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

NMH response:

NMH uses Health Pathways to guide care and also funds PHOs to deliver *Advance Care Planning*, and 0.8FTE is dedicated to this programme.

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

NMH response:

Specialist palliative care

Health professionals refer patients when the complexity of the illness is such that specialist palliative care is needed to achieve control of symptoms and where social, psychological and spiritual support would assist the patient and family/ whānau. Patients/ family can also refer following agreement from the General Practitioner (GP) or treating consultant for assessment.

Primary palliative care

Patients can attend their general practice for consultation, and GPs refer to District Nursing via Hospice for primary palliative care support.

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

NMH response:

The cost of Hospice services is \$5,506,484 for the current financial year (1/07/2021-30/06/2022).

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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive