

25 May 2022



### Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 29 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, where you seek the following information.

1. *“The amount of methadone distributed in Nelson and if possible to see which way it's trending (ideally current amount vs 5 years / 10 years ago). What it costs the DHB a year.”*

#### NMH response:

##### **\*Data Caveat:**

Our reporting system provides data for the Nelson and Marlborough region. The data includes a small portion of methadone prescribed for Pain Management as well as Addiction.

*Total Individuals:* Data does not show the exact number of Addiction clients on the programme at any one time; people move to and from other regions, and go on and off the programme.

*Total Drug Cost:* Data is incomplete across 3 years. There was an (approximate) 11.5% price increase of methadone in 2019.

Please see the data in Table One grouped by Calendar Years 2012 – 2016 and 2017 – 2021.

**TABLE ONE**

Nelson Marlborough	2012-2016	2017-2021
Total Individuals	594	754
Total Drug Cost	\$319,065.49	\$362,037.21

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](http://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](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz)

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

I trust 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**