

Tēnā koe

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00008526**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request to Manatū Hauora on 7 December 2022, which was transferred to Te Whatu Ora on 8 December:

- *"Please provide a copy of the memo/report which was provided to the Director-General of Health to make the decision - do Māori and Pacific people aged 40-49 need to prove their ethnicity/whakapapa to the pharmacist or vaccination centres to be able to access this second booster. If yes - why and if not - why not?"*

In response to your request for a memo or report, I can confirm that neither Te Whatu Ora nor Manatū Hauora are aware of such a document. On this basis your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as despite reasonable efforts, the document requested as not been found.

Te Whatu Ora would like to reassure you that proof of ethnicity is not required for administration of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines in Aotearoa.

Ethnicity or whakapapa is not asked (or confirmed) of any person at time of vaccination, on the basis that ethnicity is self-determined. Pharmacies and other Vaccination providers use the Covid Immunisation Register (CIR) to record and access COVID-19 vaccine data, which obtains ethnicity information from the individuals National Health Index (NHI) record. For primary care (general practice) ethnicity is confirmed at the time of enrolment, as well as any subsequent enrolment at an alternative practitioner.

Māori and Pacific peoples are currently over-represented in both COVID-19 hospitalisations and deaths and minimising the barriers to vaccination is an important part of how we protect those people who are most at risk.

You may be interested to learn more on the Ethnicity Data Protocols, which describe the standard procedures for collecting, recording and using data on the ethnicity of people treated in New Zealand. You can access these here: [HISO 10001:2017 Ethnicity Data Protocols | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

**How to get in contact**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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