

15 August 2023

Ref Number: MHA21994

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### **Official information request for information relation to vaccinations**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request transferred from Manatū Hauora on 12 June 2023 for the following:

*“Can I please have all information on Māori providers that were contracted and paid to roll out and vaccinate the Māori and Pacific population throughout New Zealand. Including all Māori health organisations.*

*How much money has been spent on promoting, funding to vaccinate Māori and Pacifica people from the beginning?”*

The transfer of your request from Manatū Hauora referred to the Pacific population. This aspect of your request will be responded to by Te Whatu Ora, as it directly relates to its functions.

The following paragraphs provide you with some contextual information in relation to your information request.

Te Aka Whai Ora was established on 1 July 2022 as an independent statutory entity and is mandated to ensure better hauora outcomes for Māori. Accordingly, Te Aka Whai Ora can only provide information from 1 July 2022 onwards for services that were procured from hauora Māori Providers and paid for since its establishment.

In addition, Te Aka Whai Ora has inherited a number of legacy contracts from 1 July 2022 onwards which have either been transferred to it or are in the process of being transferred from Te Whatu Ora, former district health boards, or Manatū Hauora. These transfers have resulted in more than 1,400 legacy contracts across the motu. A majority of these legacy contracts do not clearly identify the hauora Māori service being delivered.

As such, it was determined that some of your request could have been refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, because the information you requested is not held in an accessible format and providing it would necessitate research and analysis of source information which would amount to the creation of fundamentally new information.

However, I have considered your request in the spirit of the OIA, and in the interest of transparency can provide the following in response to your request.

For the contracts transferred to Te Aka Whai Ora by other health agencies since 1 July 2022, Te Aka Whai Ora can only respond in terms of the information we hold.

#### ***Item 1: Can I please have all information on Māori providers that were contracted and paid to roll out and vaccinate the Māori population throughout New Zealand, including all Māori health organisations***

As previously outlined in the contextual information above, Te Aka Whai Ora is only responding to the part of this request relating to hauora Māori providers.

Te Aka Whai Ora has engaged in 105 contracts with hauora Māori providers where the main purpose of the contract is vaccination services.

Please note, while these providers target services towards Māori needs, they provide services to all New Zealanders, not just Māori.

Of the 105 contracts:

- 35 were with providers in the Northern region
- 35 were with providers in Te Manawa Taki
- 21 were with providers in the Central region
- 14 were with providers in Te Waipounamu.

There are three main service descriptions among the 105 contracts.

Twenty-six contracts have the following descriptions:

**Contract description**

- *COVID-19 vaccinations*

**Service description**

- *The purpose of this funding is to maintain existing funding for a further 6 months to support equitable health outcomes for Māori in relation to COVID-19 and support equitable uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations for Māori. This will ensure whānau have improved access to health services and continuity of care in the community setting.*

*The intention is for this funding to be applied by hauora Māori partners to continuing services.*

*This will provide time to hauora Māori partners to wind-down existing services and/or pivot elements of these services to deliver alternative community support services. Funding for these services would need to be sourced from alternative funding opportunities from across the health and social sector.*

*Funding for these services includes care in the community outreach for people who contract COVID-19 and require intensive wrap-around supports as part of their recovery.*

Sixty-eight contracts have the following descriptions:

**Contract description**

- *MMR and Flu immunisations*

**Service description**

- *The funding will enable opportunistic influenza, MMR, COVID-19, and childhood immunisation across hauora Māori partner networks and provide community-based events across the regions to enable whānau to come together and build trust within communities.*

Eleven contracts have the following descriptions:

**Contract description**

- *Delivery of Māori immunisation programmes*

**Service description**

- *Delivery of Māori immunisation programmes and campaigns to increase the rate of Māori whānau immunisations for influenza, MMR, COVID-19, Pertussis and childhood immunisations*

**Item 2: How much money has been spent on promoting, funding to vaccinate Māori people from the beginning?**

Since 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, Te Aka Whai Ora has made payments of \$11,991,661 in relation to the contracts identified above.

Te Aka Whai Ora intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. We will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on our website. Your personal details will be deleted, and Te Aka Whai Ora will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Te Aka Whai Ora Ministerial Services ([mhagovernmentservices@health.govt.nz](mailto:mhagovernmentservices@health.govt.nz)).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review 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 freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Selah Hart  
Maiaka Hapori | Deputy Chief Executive, Public and Population Health  
**Te Aka Whai Ora**