



Lakes District Health Board
Corner Arawa and Ranolf Streets (Pukeroa Street)
Private Bag 3023, Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

4 March 2022

Subject: Official Information Act request re: Palliative Care

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act received by Lakes DHB on 3 February 2022.

In response to your request, we can provide the following information:

1. Does your DHB have a palliative care service?

Yes, the Lakes DHB Palliative Care Service supports people and their families who are dealing with life-threatening illness, helping them to live as comfortably as possible for their remaining time.

2. If yes, what is its annual budget?

\$121,520

3. How many palliative care specialists do you employ?

0.3 FTE Senior Medical Officer

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

0.4 FTE Clinical Nurse Specialist
0.3 FTE Senior Medical Officer

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

While patient's do not have direct access to telephone consultation, on-call Specialist Palliative Care advice is provided to hospital consulting teams, to requesting general practitioners, and to the two hospice teams (Rotorua and Taupo).

6. 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?

Palliative patients have access to District Nursing, hospice visits or general practitioners. While some of this service is available Monday-Friday (8-5) some services are also available during weekends

and after hours. Patients are encouraged to access the ED, and subsequently Acute Medical Service after hours. After hours' care is supported by the patient's General Practice on a case to case basis.

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

Both Taupo and Rotorua have a community Hospice Service, community nursing services supported by both General Practitioners and Hospital Specialists. These are inequivalent to multidisciplinary team in large urban hospices.

8. Do all patients admitted to hospital have access to multidisciplinary specialist palliative care teams?

Public hospitals in Lakes DHB provide generalist care and advice from allied health professionals. All inpatient teams have access to and use the specialist hospital palliative care team. A 24/7 Waikato DHB Palliative Care service is also available if required.

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

This information is unavailable as the implementation was conducted within the existing resource. This is purposely not linked to Palliative Care service

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

Referrals to palliative care can be done by anyone, at any time as generalist palliative care is appropriate for most patients with a terminal illness. While generally referrals are sought the earlier the better, but when it is thought the person has less than 12 months to live.

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

We are unable to provide a response to this question in order to maintain confidentiality to our two providers. This is as per Sect 9 (2) (b) (ii) of the Act.