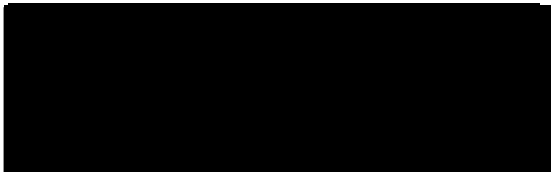


13 February 2019



Re Official Information Request for activities being undertaken to reduce alcohol harm

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 7 January 2019 for the following information:

DHB's alcohol harm reduction activities for the financial year 2017/18 namely:

- * Public Health regulatory activity related to alcohol***
- * Involvement with policy development with each Council within your DHB area***
- * The costs incurred in preparing each submission submitted to central and local government on alcohol issues***
- * The amount spent on advocacy to central and local government on alcohol issues***
- * What 'community action' has been taken to reduce alcohol harm, which community groups the DHB has worked with, the amount of financial assistance provided to each community group***
- * What steps have been taken to promote community awareness, the campaigns that have been co-ordinated and the cost of each campaign***
- * The number of staff employed/contracted and the salaries paid to employees and payments made to contractors to the DHB who are tasked with alcohol related public health regulatory activity, policy development, submissions and advocacy, encouraging community action and promoting community awareness***
- * The submissions made to Councils within your DHB area on alcohol licensing applications for all on-license, off-license, club and special event licenses and the cost incurred in doing so***

I am responding from Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) as the DHB responsible for Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS).

ARPHS provides public health services to all three metro Auckland District Health Boards – Waitemata District Health Board, Counties Manukau Health and Auckland District Health Board, and the populations they serve. ARPHS's core role is to protect and promote public health and includes minimising alcohol-related harm for the Auckland region. This response was coordinated by ARPHS on behalf of the three DHBs in the Auckland region. Interpretation of this OIA has been limited to ARPHS and DHB Planning and Funding Services.

We have provided the information under each of your questions below.

1. Public Health regulatory activity related to alcohol

ARPHS is responsible for the regulatory activities related to alcohol for the Auckland region. ARPHS has engaged in the following regulatory activities related to their statutory obligations:

- Reporting on alcohol licence applications including visiting licensed premises.
- Attending hearings at the Auckland District Licensing Committee (DLC) to present evidence and submissions.
- Assisting Police with Controlled Purchase Operations (CPOs).
- Assisting Council Inspectors by accompanying them on licensed premises inspections.
- Assisting Police by accompanying them on licensed premises inspections.
- Contributed to the ongoing Local Alcohol Policy process.

2. Involvement with policy development with each Council within your DHB area

There has been no activity related to this for this time period.

3. The costs incurred in preparing each submission submitted to central and local government on alcohol issues

There have been no submissions to local government during 2017/18.

ARPHS have made the following submissions during 2017/18 to central government:

- Mental Health and Addictions Inquiry – June 2018
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Renewal of Licences) Amendment Bill (No 2) – April 2018
- Targeted Consultation - Energy Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages – July 2017

The cost incurred in preparing each submission is included within ARPHS staff responsibilities which can be found at question 7.

4. The amount spent on advocacy to central and local government on alcohol issues

The three Auckland regional DHBs and ARPHS have not engaged in any advocacy to local and central government.

5. What 'community action' has been taken to reduce alcohol harm, which community groups the DHB has worked with, the amount of financial assistance provided to each community group

The three Auckland regional DHBs and ARPHS have not provided specific financial assistance to any community groups for community action on alcohol. ARPHS has undertaken the following community actions:

- Worked with the Executive Planning Group, a collaboration to reduce the harm from alcohol in Auckland, which includes Hapai Te Hauroa and Alcohol Healthwatch. No financial assistance was provided.
- Worked with Tamaki Ki Te Tonga District Maori Wardens. No financial assistance was given.

CM Health staff have sought input and advice from various community groups about alcohol related harm, including CM Health Consumer Advisory Group, Mangere East Community Centre, Te Kaha o Te Rangatahi, Te Ara Rangatahi and Maori Wardens. ADHB and WDHB have not worked with any community groups in relation to alcohol harm during this timeframe.

6. What steps have been taken to promote community awareness, the campaigns that have been co-ordinated and the cost of each campaign

There have been no community awareness promotion campaigns on alcohol-related harm.

7. The number of staff employed/contracted and the salaries paid to employees and payments made to contractors to the DHB who are tasked with alcohol related public health regulatory activity, policy development, submissions and advocacy, encouraging community action and promoting community awareness

During 2017/18 ARPHS alcohol-harm minimisation team consists of a Medical Officer of Health, Compliance Officers, Health Promoters, team administrators, in-house Legal Counsel, some management and policy support. The total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is 10.4 FTE, at a value of \$763,978. In 2017/18 \$29,456 was spent on contractors.

During 2017/18 in response to Counties Manukau community and clinician concerns about the large and inequitable health and social burdens on Counties Manukau residents/whaanau due to alcohol-related harms, Counties Manukau Health has adopted a position statement on alcohol (available on the CM Health website at: <https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/assets/About-CMH/Reports-and-planning/CM-Health-Alcohol-position-statement-2017-updated.pdf>). This was led by a Public Health Physician and Public Health Registrar. The total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is 00.7 FTE, at a value of \$12,290.

8. The submissions made to Councils within your DHB area on alcohol licensing applications for all on-license, off-license, club and special event licenses and the cost incurred in doing so

The reference to 'Councils' has been interpreted to mean District Licensing Committee (DLC). ARPHS has made submissions at the following DLC hearings for the following applicants, including the date of the hearing:

1. Avondale Bowling Club - 18 August 2017
 2. Pak 'n Save Glen Innes - 12 September 2017
 3. Mehfil Restaurant Flat Bush - 10 November 2017
 4. New World Remuera - 19 December 2017, Reconvened 14 May 2018
 5. Crown Liquor Clendon - 9 April 2018
 6. Mehfil Mission Bay - 26 April 2018
- Further details of the agenda and outcome of these hearings can be found at the following website: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/hearings/find-hearing/Pages/find-district-licensing-committee-hearing.aspx>

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled under the Official Information Act to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive