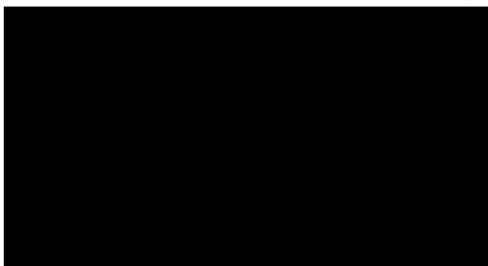




14 June 2022



OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST - BREAST SCREENING BACKLOG

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act (OIA) 1982 on 28 April 2022 for information regarding breast-screening backlogs. I note that the Acting Manager - OIA Services, Office of the Director-General, Ministry of Health transferred part of your request to Waikato and Mid-Central District Health Board's (DHB) in a letter dated 17 May 2022 as identified here:

Information regarding breast screening backlogs, data as at 28th April 2022:

Average wait time by region

Median wait time by region

Longest wait time by region"

Breast Screen Midland covers Waikato, Lakes and Bay of Plenty DHB regions and has an eligible screening population of 129,000 (projected to 31 June 2022), including many people who are in remote and rural areas.

Breast Screening Midland is unable to identify data from 28 April 2022 as our system overwrites patient status with latest updated information. The data provided in response to the OIA request was collated on 27 May 2022.

Breast Screen Midland is reluctant to put definite timeframes into calculating wait times as we are not a diagnostic service with traditional waitlists. Our wahine are able to defer mammograms for years (and some do), therefore our lists change daily. What we have provided in *Table 1* below is a breakdown of wahine by ethnicity and the waiting time by month. Invitations are loaded and sent out daily on a regular basis providing the opportunity for wahine to call and book their appointments.

The ideal time to send invitations is at 22 months although we can screen as early as 20 months from previous breast screening mammogram.

Table 1 Breast Screening Wahine in the Midland region by Ethnicity waiting to be screened

Length of time waiting	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Other Ethnicity	Grand Total
New to programme	166	19	568	753
>24 months	122	9	1,215	1,346
23-24 months	76	11	398	485
22-23 months	71	3	375	449
21-22 months	56	5	278	339
20-21 months	31	1	133	165
Transferred / overdue	1,226	104	6,551	7,881
Grand Total	1,748	152	9,518	11,418

Note: New to programme refers to women new to the programme and have not yet received an invitation. Transferred / overdue refers to women who have transferred from other lead provider regions, or those who are overdue for screening.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry
Executive Director - Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board