

24 May 2024

Jenny Chapman
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Tēnā koe Jenny,

Your Official Information Act request, ref: HNZ00045663

Thank you for your email received on 29 April 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. How many surgical abortions took place at Rotorua Hospital in 2023?*
- 2. How many medical abortions took place at Rotorua Hospital in 2023?*
- 3. How many abortions total took places in Lakes DHB in 2023?*
- 4. What proportion of the abortions were for Maori women in 2023?*
- 5. In 2023, How many abortion appointments at Rotorua Hospital were canceled due to the mother changing her mind in regards to having her baby?*
- 6. In 2023, how many pregnancies were ended outside of Rotorua, then the mother sent back to Rotorua to birth a still born baby? (By this I mean, how many babies have been euthanized in the womb, in another hospital, then birthed deceased in Rotorua in 2023)*
 - 6.1. Of these pregnancies, how many were passed 25 weeks gestation?*
- 7. Historically, in total, how many pregnancies have been ended outside of Rotorua, then the mother sent back to Rotorua to birth a still born baby? (By this I mean, how many babies have been euthanized in the womb, in another hospital, then birthed deceased in Rotorua)*
 - 7.1. Of these pregnancies, how many were passed 25 weeks gestation?*

Our Response

Provisional, this data has not undergone full quality assurance, the data is for operational purposes – The data has not undergone the validation process that we use for published data. We recommend that caveats are consistently used, underscoring that the data is provisional; not validated through a formal validation process; and could be subject to change.

- 1. How many surgical abortions took place at Rotorua Hospital in 2023?*

There were 488 surgical abortions at Rotorua Hospital in 2023.

2. *How many medical abortions took place at Rotorua Hospital in 2023?*

There were 183 medical abortions at Rotorua Hospital in 2023.

3. *How many abortions in total took places in Lakes DHB in 2023?*

671 abortions took place in Health NZ, Lakes in 2023.

4. *What proportion of the abortions were for Māori women in 2023?*

Splitting the total into Māori and non-Māori is:

Māori – 345

Non-Māori - 326.

5. *In 2023, How many abortion appointments at Rotorua Hospital were cancelled due to the mother changing her mind in regards to having her baby?*

We are unable to comment on the individual circumstances of cases but can advise that 75 appointments resulted in continuation of pregnancy.

6. *In 2023, how many pregnancies were ended outside of Rotorua, then the mother sent back to Rotorua to birth a still born baby? (By this I mean, how many babies have been euthanized in the womb, in another hospital, then birthed deceased in Rotorua in 2023)*

6.1. *Of these pregnancies, how many were passed 25 weeks gestation?*

We have not identified any record of the situation described above.

7. *Historically, in total, how many pregnancies have been ended outside of Rotorua, then the mother sent back to Rotorua to birth a still born baby? (By this I mean, how many babies have been euthanized in the womb, in another hospital, then birthed deceased in Rotorua)*

7.1. *Of these pregnancies, how many were passed 25 weeks gestation?'*

This part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect individuals' privacy. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals is not outweighed by the public interest in the release of this information.

How to get in touch with us

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

This information may be of interest to other members of the public, therefore Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. Your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

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 [Ombudsman New Zealand | Tari o te Kaitiaki Mana Tangata](#) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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Danielle Coe

**Manager (OIA) Government Services
Office of the Chief Executive**