BAY OF PLENTY
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
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OIA REQUEST

Received: 19 January 2022
Due: 17 February 2022
Response Date: 21 January 2022
Subject: ARC and General Bed Availability

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our response below:

Request
The Ministry of Health has informed me that in some areas, external and internal pressure has reduced the number of beds available for age residential care, and I am looking to discover what areas have been affected by this.

With that in mind, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982.

1. **Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**
   No. BOPDHB does not manage the number of beds available – this is influenced by the aged residential care sector business decisions.

   There has been a reduction in capacity since March 2020 with the closure of one facility in December 2021 and redevelopment of individual rooms in other facilities. This however was a decision not driven by the BOPDHB.

2. **How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?**
   ARC providers control the number of beds available to BOPDHB.

March 2020 capacity	2115
Current capacity	2056

3. **If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of age residential care beds available?**
   DHB does not manage or contract for specific beds and therefore does not control the number of beds available.

   DHB does contract with MOH certified aged care providers for service over four levels of care.

   The DHB assumes that changes in capacity since March 2020 have related to provider decisions regarding:
   - Redesigning rooms to be larger – thus reducing number of beds available in a facility;
   - Construction of new facility/apartments that are certified to provide aged residential care;
   - Closure of one facility due to land being purchased by government department for alternative purpose.

4. **Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?**
   Yes.

5. **If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?**
   This is the result of building works in Tauranga Hospital, associated to negative air flow installation in an existing ward, to prepare for increasing numbers of COVID-19 admissions.

6. **How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?**
   For the Bay of Plenty, there were 411 general beds (excluding specialised critical care and day beds) available in Tauranga and Whakatane hospitals in March 2020.

   There are currently 407 beds (excluding specialised critical care beds and day beds) available. This temporary net bed reduction will be resolved within 2 months once building works have been completed.

Bay of Plenty DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website. Please note this response may be published on our website. Official Information Act | Bay of Plenty District Health Board | Hauora a Toi | BOPDHB

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review our response. www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE BROWN
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