

08 January 2019

Thank you for your email request dated 28 November 2018 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) assessments. You requested:

- “1. Is your DHB able to provide an FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?”*
- 2. If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment? (How many people and how long is the wait).”*

Question one

Is your DHB able to provide an FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?

Hutt Valley DHB’s Child Development Service is able to provide FASD assessments. The service is a multidisciplinary disability service comprised of psychologists, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and a developmental paediatrician.

Question two

If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment? (How many people and how long is the wait).

The Child Development Service is a disability service and sees children from 0 to 16 years of age who have been born with a disability, are at risk of developing a disability (some babies are followed from birth) and children for whom concern has been raised about their development. All referrals to the Child Development Service are prioritised based on safety (safety of the child and those around them) and age group with preschool children being given greater priority.

At present, a child who is over 5 years of age and was referred “query FASD” and there were no safety concerns would currently wait a year to be seen. A child that is seen as urgent would be seen in 2 – 3 months.

It is not possible to confirm how many children are waiting for a FASD assessment. Confirmed or suspected alcohol exposure may be a factor in a referral but generally, most referral requests do not have a direct query with regard to FASD. I can advise, however, that there are currently 200 children on the waitlist for a multidisciplinary assessment for all types of disability including a direct query of FASD.