

23 January 2015

Waikato Hospital
Pembroke Street
P O Box 934
Hamilton 3240, New Zealand
www.waikatodhb.health.nz

Dear

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email dated 1 January 2015 requesting information on children who required a general anaesthetic for rotten teeth in Taumarunui. Specifically you requested:

Please provide the number of children who required a general anesthetic for rotten teeth who resided in Taumarunui for each of the past ten years (2005 - 2014). Please provide the number for each year separately.

The table below provides the information you requested. This includes children up to the age of 18 (but not including 18 year olds) and we have assumed that 'rotten teeth' is medically described as 'dental caries'. In addition these numbers are for the area serviced by the Taumarunui water plant, namely Tarrangower, Taumarunui Central, Sunshine - Hospital Hill & Manunui.

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Cases</u>
2005	27
2006	22
2007	23
2008	22
2009	22
2010	20
2011	5
2012	7
2013	14
2014	17
Grand Total	179

We note that when the fluoride was being removed from the water supply in Taumarunui, the dental team increased their oral health education and moved to some direct preventative measures such as direct application of fluoride varnish on pre-schoolers' teeth.

We would also note that the statistical significance of variations on such small numbers is definitely questionable.

I trust this answers your query.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Paradine', written in a cursive style.

Brett Paradine
Interim Chief Operating Officer