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RE Official information request CDHB 9765

I refer to your email dated 21 December 2017 requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

1. How many staff vacancies (FTEs) are there in the DHB in the maternity unit / post-natal ward?

Obstetricians - We currently have no vacancies for Specialist Obstetricians but are covering for staff on sick leave using several SMOs on casual contracts (private SMOs mostly who worked for us recently and our own team doing additional duties) so the service is covered. All Registrar positions are full.

Midwives - There is a total of 76 FTE for midwives and we have a vacancy of 9.4 FTE (this will be filled by a combination of FTE from some staff moving from 0.4 to fulltime). We have eight graduate midwives who started at the end of January (6.4 FTE) and another 7.1 FTE contracted to start between end of November 2017 and May 2018. There are ongoing and consistent changes to staffing due to Non-work related ACC such as fractured hips, car accidents, ski injuries etc. and maternity leave with three midwives currently on maternity leave and two planning to go on maternity leave.

Ward Clerks- no vacancies

Hospital Aids - No vacancies

2. How many times has the maternity unit been in Code Red in the past year?

We do not use the term 'Code Red' but we have had instances when our occupancy levels at Christchurch Women's Hospital have been up to our capacity. We do focus on using data that assists us

to predict demand and plan accordingly, working up to six weeks out. Each day there are two or three meetings to bring together key people to look at the demand on our services and to align staffing and resource requirements to this. As a tertiary centre positioned on a bigger hospital campus, we work to ensure there is capacity to deal with a sudden increase in demand as it is required. We are also strongly engaged with Lead Maternity Care colleagues, Consumer Advisory Group, NZ College of Midwives and the wider Canterbury DHB health system to encourage women who do not require tertiary level services to choose primary maternity units for their birthing experience.

3. How many times has the delivery suite been in Code Red in the past year?

We do not use the term 'Code Red' but there have been three occasions over the past three months when LMC midwives have been asked to take women to primary birthing units because of a sudden influx of women and this is unrelated to staffing levels. This is a rare event and these situations are generally relieved after a few hours.

4. What is the proportion of DHB staff midwives employed compared with Agency midwives?

We do not employ agency midwives.

5. How does this compare with last year?

We did not employ agency midwives in the previous year.

6. How many sentinel events have there been in the last year compared with the previous 5 years (and itemized for each year)?

	Calendar Year					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of Maternity Service related Sentinel Events	5	3	4	1	5	6

7. How many LMC midwives are actively booking women into hospital and how does this number compare with last year?

The majority of local LMC's are booking women into, and accessing, our facilities which is reflected in the following booking numbers:

2016 6249
 2017 5888

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
General Manager
Planning, Funding & Decision Support