

25 March 2022

Kia ora

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016899

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please could you supply us with the numbers of ACC32 applications (for acupuncture) that were received and accepted in 2021, and each of the past 10 years prior to this, and the numbers of ACC32 applications that were denied/declined, also in 2021 and the 10 years prior. Please could you also give the numbers of ACC32 (acupuncture) applications that were standard or non-standard requests.

Here is the data requested with ACC32 applications for acupuncture treatment

Note that this was extracted on 2 March 2022 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Status	1 January to 31 December										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Approved	1198	1613	1586	1782	2197	3644	7073	5792	8376	6579	5820
Declined	287	286	389	315	285	386	447	305	85	5	5
Pending Decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	<4	<4	0	0

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims

Some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is less than 4 (denoted as <4). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of data by *standard* or *non-standard* requests

This information, if held, would be included on individual claim files; it is not recorded on the ACC32 application form. Therefore, identifying which of these claims were for *standard* or *non-standard* requests would require a manual review of all acupuncture claims in the last 10 years. This decision is made under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In making this decision, we considered extending the timeframe to respond and charging (under the Act). However, neither of these options have been offered because it has been determined that the resources required to extract the information would have a significant impact on the everyday functions of the team(s) involved.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public

ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12.

If you're concerned about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Ngā mihi



Sara Freitag

Acting Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support