



19 December 2023

[REDACTED]
Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-029326

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2023, to [REDACTED] Treatment and Support Assessor, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Is CDB/THC medication routinely automatically refused, for funding.*
2. *Is the health of the claimant taken into account, ie cheaper medications being dangerous long-term?*
3. *How many people are currently funded, how many of these were after review and how many were accepted.*

[REDACTED] referred your request to ACC's Official Information Act Services team for a response.

Decision making for cannabis-based products

ACC makes decisions about funding cannabis-based products by considering the information provided by the prescribing specialist along with the client's relevant clinical records. For example, this may be research showing the cannabis product's use for the covered condition in comparison to other interventions, as well as reports showing the client's rehabilitation outcomes to date. However, as cannabis products are unapproved medicines, and the medical literature on their clinical benefits is limited, the majority of requests for cannabis-based products are initially declined due to a lack of compelling supporting evidence.

As of 10 December, 28 claims have received payment for cannabis related products in 2023. While 21 claims had lodged a review about a decision ACC made related to treatment, we cannot confirm if the reviews were related to the cannabis products, or other therapies.

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

ACC may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. 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 have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Ngā mihi

Sara Freitag
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement