

Written Parliamentary Questions 53307 and 53312 (2025)

New Zealanders deserves access to timely care. That’s why over the next three years, Health New Zealand will increase investment by \$27.1 million to strengthen the workforce, expand hospital capacity, and upgrade infrastructure so more patients can receive timely stem cell transplant care. The funding will enable:

- 27 to 38 per cent more patients to receive allogeneic transplants when they need them, depending on case complexity.
- Recruitment of 79 new full-time staff across the three transplant centres in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.
- Increased inpatient bed capacity at Auckland City Hospital and Wellington Regional Hospital.
- Infrastructure upgrades at Wellington Regional Hospital to address current physical constraints.

Health New Zealand is also introducing a digital tool that will support transplant scheduling and provide a nationwide overview of wait times and treatment requirements, helping to improve the delivery of stem cell transplants. This builds on a \$6.11 million boost in 2024/25 for stem cell transplant services, which enabled Health New Zealand to begin improvements immediately.

I refer the Member to table 1 for the number of people who were net added to the stem cell transplant waiting list in each of the past 12 months, and for the number of people who received a transplant in each of those months. I also refer the Member to table 2 and 3 which shows the number of people being prepared, but are not yet ready, for transplant, combined with the number of people that are ready for transplant.

The difference between the number of referrals and the number of transplants reflects the clinical realities of stem cell transplantation. Not all patients referred will proceed to transplant. Some referrals may not be appropriate after further assessment, while others condition may decline or progress so that they are no longer able to benefit from transplant and are referred for palliative care.

I am further advised that information relating to wait times, including the number of patients whose scheduled stem cell transplants were postponed or deferred, is not currently available. A digital system to assist with scheduling of transplants that will provide answers to such questions is currently being developed.

Table 1

Stem Cell Transplants

	Auckland		Christchurch		Palmerston North		Waikato		Wellington		Total	
Month year	New Referrals	Transplanted	New Referrals	Transplanted	New Referrals	Transplanted	New Referrals	Transplanted	New Referrals	Transplanted	New Referrals	Transplanted
Oct-2024	21	10	<6	10	<6	<6	7	6	<6	<6	74	32
Nov-2024	21	11	17	9	8	<6	0	<6	12	<6	58	35
Dec-2024	21	9	15	<6	<6	<6	<6	<6	6	<6	91	22
Jan-2025	21	11	11	6	<6	<6	9	<6	<6	<6	48	24
Feb-2025	17	13	<6	6	<6	<6	9	<6	7	<6	40	31
Mar-2025	13	14	12	10	<6	<6	8	<6	<6	<6	42	36
Apr-2025	17	14	23	9	N/A	N/A	<6	<6	10	<6	53	31
May-2025	28	14	13	7	N/A	N/A	<6	<6	12	<6	58	28
Jun-2025	14	9	14	6	N/A	N/A	<6	6	<6	6	35	27
Jul-2025	15	8	7	6	N/A	N/A	<6	6	8	<6	33	25
Aug-2025	23	14	10	9	N/A	N/A	<6	<6	10	<6	46	30
Sep-2025	24	14	24	10	N/A	N/A	<6	<6	6	<6	58	30

Notes:

- Data is manually submitted by stem cell transplant centres to the interim national collection
- ‘< 6’ means the data has been suppressed for privacy purposes because the value was fewer than six.
- Information for Palmerston North is currently only available up until March 2025
- Data extracted 20 November 2025
- “New referrals” provides a count of the number of people referred to the five transplant teams for consideration for transplant in any given month. This is a demand side measure. It reflects the number of people identified each month as requiring a transplant and is affected by disease incidence, response to prior treatments and disease progress.
- The number of transplants provided is a supply side measure and reflects those people who are offered and agree to receive a transplant, successfully progress through preparation stages of the transplant journey and capacity to provide a transplant in any given month.

Table 2

Centre	Autologous	Allogeneic	Date
Auckland	55	56	Sept 2025
Christchurch	33	18	Sept 2025
Palmerston North	23	0	Mar 2025
Waikato	20	0	Sept 2025
Wellington	14	22	Sept 2025

Table 3

	Number of people waiting for SCT			
	January	June	September	December
2022	242	239	184	190
2023	231	194	215	151
2024	227	172	216	171
2025	224	213*	241*	-
*Using Palmerston North value from March 2025				

All data contained in this Written Parliamentary Reply is unvalidated operational data and should not be treated as definitive or relied on as fact.