



Te Tāhū Hauora
Health Quality & Safety
Commission

14 March 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) request transfer from ACC

On 26 February 2025 ACC partially transferred your request for information to Te Tāhū Hauora | Health Quality & Safety Commission (Te Tāhū Hauora). Your request for information asked:

How many individuals with FACS, or the respective individual syndromes, have been allocated a Risk of Harm, or Severity Assessment Code which has been reported?

To date, Te Tāhū Hauora has received one report, with a Severity Assessment Code (SAC) of 2, with a possible link to Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS) or an associated syndrome as listed on the website: <https://www.facsnz.com/whatisfacs>.

In (day and month withheld) 2018, Te Tāhū Hauora received a SAC 2 report from a health provider (name withheld) regarding a person who continued to take sodium valproate during their pregnancy and had not received counselling on the associated risks to the foetus. When the infant was born, a referral was made to a paediatric service (name withheld) for complications following exposure to high dose sodium valproate. We do not hold any further information regarding the outcome for this infant or if any diagnosis was made.

Names of the health provider services involved, and the exact date of the SAC 2 notification to Te Tāhū Hauora have been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA 1982 to protect an individual's privacy. If you do not agree with the decision to withhold this information you can raise your concerns with Office of the New Zealand Ombudsman: <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint>.

In response to your most recent request, a broad search of the database was undertaken which revealed the potential for a possible link to FACS in the event described above. It cannot be confirmed if this infant went on to be diagnosed with FACS or any other associated syndrome as this is beyond the remit of Te Tāhū Hauora. However, this event has been shared with you in the interests of transparency.

Nāku noa, nā

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

Kere Pomare

Acting Chief Executive

Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission

