

Mental Health: Suicide
Proactive Release : 12 September 2018



27 August 2018

██████████
Presbyterian Support Northern

E-mail: ██████████

Dear ██████████

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 14 August 2018. You requested the following information:

In the last financial year, or equivalent reporting period:

- **How much of DHB mental health spending goes towards supporting people who have attempted suicide.**
- **And if possible, the number of people who were treated under the umbrella of mental health after attempting suicide. This is not referring to hospital admission costs, and costs associated with physical injuries.**

We do not have a cost accounting system that is able to provide this level of detail for mental health spending allocations, and so we cannot provide the information to fully answer your question on how much spending occurs for these specific cases.

We have an incomplete picture of the number of individuals treated following a suicide attempt under the umbrella of Mental Health.

‘Attempted suicide’ is not a mental health diagnosis, and therefore interventions directly related to this are not recorded as part of the PRIMHD dataset (the Ministry of Health single national mental health and addiction information collection of service activity and outcomes data for health consumers). However, many of our multi-disciplinary Mental Health teams and community NGO Partners are engaged in suicide prevention and follow-up care.

Each year, the number of people seen in an Emergency Department following a suicide attempt (coded as Intentional self-harm hospitalisations) is recorded. This most recent information/data is available in the Ministry of Health report on Suicide and Deliberate Self-harm - available at:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/suicide-data-and-stats>

Dr Peter Watson, the Clinical Director, Mental Health & Addictions at Counties Manukau Health is happy to further discuss these matters with you, if this would be helpful. Please contact him via email at Peter.Watson@middlemore.co.nz

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gloria Johnson
Chief Executive (Acting)