

30 May 2019

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 20 May 2019. You requested the following information:

- **How many patients in your in-patient mental health units have died in the past year, while being there?**
 - **If you could please break these down into gender and age as well that'd be great.**
 - **Also, I know this may not be possible due to privacy, but if you could, can I please have cause of death (e.g. self-inflicted or not), and dates they happened.**

The information sought in this request will be used as part of a report by Stuff into the number of patients who have died in units across the country in the past year.

There were no deaths in CM Health inpatient Mental Health facilities during 2018, or to date in 2019.

In November 2018, the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC) released their Annual Reports on Serious Adverse Events across health services in New Zealand. For the first time, these reports include details provided by all District Health Boards to the HQSC on Mental Health services and reportable events. This reporting will include data on unexpected deaths in Mental Health services, and further information is available here:

- <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Reportable-Events/Publications/Learning-from-adverse-events-2018-final-web.pdf>

We acknowledge that public discussion about Mental Health and services can be useful, however, we respectfully ask that any information regarding unexpected deaths, including suicide/ self-inflicted injury is treated with sensitivity. This is because public discussion about these matters can have unintended impacts on vulnerable people.

Guidelines for responsible media management and reporting of suicide and mental health matters are published on the Mental Health Foundation website:

- <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/media/reporting-and-portrayal-of-suicide/>

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 read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health