

Clinical : Mental Health
Proactive release : 31 October 2018

17 October 2018

██████████
Reporter – Health
Stuff.co.nz

E-mail: ██████████

Dear ██████████

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 04 September 2018. You requested the following information:

How many referrals were made to the Child and Youth/ Adolescent Mental Health Service for the calendar years of 2016, 2017, and year-to-date to September 1, 2018.

In 2018:

- **How many children/ young people were on the waiting list, as of 01 September 18, broken down by age range.**
- **The longest time a child/ young person was on the waiting list, as of 01 September 18.**
- **The average wait time for a child/ youth from referral to initial appointment, as of 1 September 18.**

Questions for the DHB:

- **How many mental health professionals (FTE) work for the DHB's child/ youth service arm?**
- **What age range do you see?**
- **How are children/youth triaged when referred to the service?**
- **How long are children/youth funded to see a mental health professional under the DHB service?**

For Counties Manukau Mental Health services, our responses are outlined below.

We note that we provide comprehensive health services to the rapidly growing Counties Manukau community (population of over 557,000), which is ethnically diverse and young. There are over 121,000 children and youth (13% of the NZ total) living here. Therefore, we urge caution in using raw data on service provision for comparison with other DHBs, which may have different communities and health services.

- 1. How many referrals were made to the Child and Youth/ Adolescent Mental Health Service for the calendar years of 2016, 2017, and year-to-date to September 1, 2018?**

The numbers of referrals per year are below (table 1):

CALENDAR YEAR	NO. OF REFERRALS CHILD, YOUTH & ADOLESCENT
2016	2,060
2017	2,063
2018 to date	2,127

Table 1

2. How many children/young people were on the waiting list as of 01 September 18, broken down by age range.

As of 01 September 2018:

There were 136 children/ young people on the waiting list to be seen.

Of these:

- 96 children/young people were ages 4 to 12 years
- 40 children/young people were ages 13 to 18 years

3. The longest time a child/ young person was on the waiting list as of 01 September 18.

Currently this is 20 working days. All referrals are reviewed on receipt for clinical urgency to be seen.

4. The average wait time for a child/ youth from referral to initial appointment, as of 1 September 18.

Average wait is currently 7 working days. All referrals are reviewed on receipt for clinical urgency.

5. How many mental health professionals (FTE) work for the DHB's child/ youth service arm?

At 31 August 2018, there was a total of 50.4 full time equivalent clinical staff working across Counties Manukau Mental Health Child and Adolescent Services. This total does not include the smaller district-wide specialist teams, such as Eating Disorder, EPIT (Early Psychosis Intervention team), Infant Mental Health and Youth Forensics.

6. What age range do you see?

The service currently sees children and youth ages 04 - 17 years inclusive, with the ability to work with youth up to age 19 year where this is clinically appropriate.

7. How are children/ youth triaged when referred to the service?

A new triage process has been introduced with a single point of entry. A Clinical Team Coordinator manages the process with oversight from the Service Clinical Head. CAMHS use the UK Mental Health Triage scale – a copy has been provided along with the associated guidelines (**attached**).

8. How long are children/ youth funded to see a mental health professional under the DHB service?

This is based on a person's assessed clinical needs, and there is a wide variation in the length of time that children/ youth remain in the care of the service.

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 'M. Ap'a', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Margie Ap'a
Chief Executive