

Clinical : Emergency Care  
Proactive Release : 3 August 2018

30 July 2018

Reporter  
Radio NZ

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

**Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 03 July 2018. You requested the following information:

- **How many homeless people have been admitted to, or sought medical attention at hospital since beginning of winter (June 1<sup>st</sup>). Is this information on hand?**
- **Are you able to differentiate who may be living on the streets / rough sleeping, versus those who may be in precarious or unsatisfactory housing such as garages etc.?**
- **Also, are you aware of what type of medical attention is sought and whether there have been any deaths due to someone's housing circumstances**

There were 37 cases identified as "No fixed abode" presenting to CM Health between 1 June 2018 and 23 Jul 2018. Eight (8) of the patients returned to our facilities more than once in the time-frame. Of the total, 25 cases presented and were discharged from Emergency Department, 12 cases were admitted into one of our facilities. These numbers do not include people receiving community based services or attending outpatient appointments or clinics.

Please note that we collect patient provided addresses, and will code some cases as 'no fixed abode' – however, in many cases such the person presenting may provide the address of family or other contacts, rather than describing homelessness.

We do not code the quality/circumstances of the housing stock at addresses in an extractable repository.

Where appropriate; vulnerable people are referred to DHB Social Workers, or to other support workers and community support agencies. As a part of multi-disciplinary clinical assessment and discharge planning, details of living circumstances will be gathered, however these are only held in individual patient medical files to support direct care.

More than 60% of the cases noted above were admitted for acute medical care, the remainder were seen by surgical services, or by mental health. There was no clear trend or pattern in the diagnosis codes

of those presenting. There were no deaths recorded for these patients during admissions. Only the Coroner's Office determine a cause of death, or make a provisional finding on factors contributing, and where appropriate an unexpected death may be referred to them.

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)**