

1<sup>st</sup> October 2020



Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Official Information Act Request for Mental Health Psychology Services & Referrals**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 5 August 2020, you requested the following information:

1. **How many Maori are referred to DHB MHAS services in the past year;**
  - a) **What is the average length of engagement;**
  - b) **What diagnoses do these people present with;**
2. **How many Maori are engaged in MHAS psychology services;**
3. **How many Maori have requested psychological input, but declined;**
4. **How many Maori are on psychology waitlists;**
  - a) **What is the average waiting time for Maori on these psychology waitlists;**
5. **How many Maori psychologists are employed by the DHBs;**
6. **How many Maori psychologists are employed in a leadership capacity? For example, team leader or above;**
7. **How many intern psychologist places do the DHB have;**
8. **What is the supervision regime for the intern psychologists;**
9. **What is the average length of service of psychologists within the DHB;**
10. **How many Psychologists have left the DHB over the last twelve months, what was the reason given for leaving;**
11. **How many psychologists are on work visa's;**
12. **How many vacancies for psychologists does the DHB have;**
13. **How long have the vacancy's for psychologists been open;**
14. **What current initiatives are in place to provide education inhouse to Psychologists;**
15. **What plan is in place to expand FTE for the psychological services;**
16. **Are there any psychologists at the DHB employed in the Emergency department;**

### **Counties Manukau Health Response:**

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 7,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

**1. How many Maaori are referred to DHB MHAS services in the past year?**

CM Health Mental Health & Addictions Services (MH&A) received 2710 referrals for Maaori last fiscal year; 1 July 2019 through 30 June 2020.

Fiscal Year	Ethnicity	Referral Status	Total Number
2020	Maaori	Accepted	2710

Table 1: Data sourced HealthCare Community (HCC) 24/09/2020

**a) What is the average length of engagement?**

MH&A Services measures the length of time a person is open to our services as referral days. In the last fiscal year (1 July 2019 through 30 June 2020), the average length of referral days for Maaori was 75 days.

Fiscal Year	Ethnicity	Referral Status	Average Length of Referral (days)
2020	Maaori	Accepted	75

Table 2: Data sourced HealthCare Community (HCC) 24/09/2020

**b) What diagnoses do these people present with?**

Below is a list of the top 20 diagnoses of Maaori individuals who were referred to MH&A Services in the last fiscal year (1 July 2019 through 30 June 2020).

Diagnosis	Referrals
Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I or II	1162
No Diagnosis on another Axis	854
Psychotic Disorder NOS	192
Schizophrenia, Paranoid Type	129
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	125
Depressive Disorder NOS	86
Major Depressive Disorder, Recurrent, Moderate	82
Cannabis Dependence	75
Amphetamine Abuse	74
Cannabis Abuse	72
Major Depressive Disorder - Non specified	52
Major Depressive Disorder, Single Episode, Moderate	45
Adjustment Disorder With Depressed Mood	43
Schizoaffective Disorder Bipolar Type/Depressive Type	42
Borderline Personality Disorder	41
Alcohol Abuse	34
Generalized Anxiety Disorder	34
Borderline Personality Traits	30
Alcohol Dependence	29
Substance Abuse	29

Table 3: Data sourced HealthCare Community (HCC) 24/09/2020

**2. How many Maaori are engaged in MHAS psychology services?**

In the last fiscal year (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020), 636 individuals who are Maaori were engaged in psychology services.

Fiscal Year	Ethnicity	Patients seen by Psychologist
2020	Maaori	636

Table 4: Data sourced HealthCare Community (HCC) 24/09/2020

**3. How many Maaori have requested psychological input, but declined?**

Referrals to Psychology Services occur through discussion between the service user, family whaanau, the person's clinical team; and based upon clinical need. We do not keep data on service users who request Psychology Services but are declined.

**4. How many Maaori are on psychology waitlists?**

There are 30 Maaori service users who are currently on our psychology waitlists.

**a) What is the average waiting time for Maaori on these psychology waitlists?**

The average waiting time for psychology services for these individuals is 134 days.

**5. How many Maaori psychologists are employed by the DHBs?**

MH&A Services has one Maaori clinical psychologist and two Maaori intern clinical psychologists.

**6. How many Maaori psychologists are employed in a leadership capacity? For example, team leader or above**

Nil – CM Health has three psychologists in leadership posts in total.

**7. How many intern psychologist places do the DHB have?**

CM Health has 11 intern psychology places in total; 5 clinical, 5 health and 1 rehabilitation psychology.

**8. What is the supervision regime for the intern psychologists?**

The supervision regime is per university expectation and clinical access agreement. CM Health has an agreement with multiple universities.

**9. What is the average length of service of psychologists within the DHB?**

The average length of service of psychologists within CM Health is 4.19 years.

**10. How many Psychologists have left the DHB over the last twelve months, what was the reason given for leaving?**

17 psychologists have left during 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. Exit reasons have been outlined below in table 5.

Moved to job in public health	Moved to job in private health	Left District	Personal Reasons	Resigned (no reason provided)	Moved Overseas	Grand Total
4	5	1	3	2	2	17

Table 5: Data sourced Human Resources 24/09/2020

**11. How many psychologists are on work visas?**

CM Health currently has eight psychologists on work visas.

**12. How many vacancies for psychologists does the DHB have?**

As of 21 September 2020, CM Health currently has 8.4 FTE vacancies for Clinical Psychologists and 5.0 FTE for Trainee Psychologists.

**13. How long have the vacancies for psychologists been open?**

Vacancies have been open since the beginning of last fiscal year (1 July 2019), the average number of days that the roles vacant during that time were advertised is 361.2 days.

**14. What current initiatives are in place to provide education in-house to Psychologists?**

CM Health and MH&A Services has a regular training calendar that includes both mandatory and optional education for Psychologists.

**15. What plan is in place to expand FTE for the psychological services?**

FTE for psychological services has recently been increased by 1FTE within the Te Puawaitanga Service. In addition, a business case has been put forward for an increase of 1FTE within Department of Psychological Medicine.

**16. Are there any psychologists at the DHB employed in the Emergency Department?**

There are no psychologists employed within the Emergency Department although the Clinical Director Allied Health Scientific and Technical for the Emergency Department is a health psychologist.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
Counties Manukau Health**