

11 October 2021

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Re: Official Information Act request – Mental Health waitlists

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 13 September 2021 requesting the following information:

I am working on a story about mental health waitlists and would appreciate if you could respond to the following questions as soon as possible.

1. How many people are on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?
2. How many people are on the waitlist for outpatient youth mental health services?
3. How many people are on the waitlist for inpatient adult mental health services?
4. How many people are on the waitlist for outpatient adult mental health services?
5. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?
6. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for outpatient youth mental health services?
7. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for inpatient adult mental health services?
8. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for outpatient adult mental health services?

RESPONSE

This OIA has been partially transferred by Waitemata to Auckland DHB, to answer questions 2 and 4.

2) How many people are on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?

Auckland District Health Board provides a supra-regional inpatient child and youth mental health service, which serves the Northern Region DHBs (3 Auckland metro DHB plus Northland DHB), and all of the Midland DHBs with the exception of Hauora Tairāwhiti. This inpatient service is named the Child and Family Unit (CFU), has 18 beds, and is located within Starship Children's Hospital.

The CFU does not run a waitlist. There is currently no one waiting on a bed who requires one.

5) How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?

As above, there is no waitlist for the CFU. Within the past 10 years there have been no deaths by suspected suicide while waiting for an admission to CFU.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE

Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)