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Re: Official Information Request for Maternal Mental Health

I refer to your official information request dated 16 April 2022 about the following information:

- 1. The number of women referred to Maternal Mental Health to this DHB in 2021 and the number that were accepted.**
- 2. The current wait times for Maternal Mental Health in this District Health Board.**

Response

- 1. The number of women referred to Maternal Mental Health to this DHB in 2021 and the number that were accepted.**

Aronui Ora is the community based maternal mental health service of Auckland DHB's Mental Health and Addictions Directorate.

Aronui Ora is a secondary mental health service, which means not all referrals will meet the criteria to receive specialist care. When a referral does not meet the criteria, other supports are recommended for māmā and pēpi.

During the 2021 calendar year there were a total of 734 referrals to the service.

While we are able to report how many of these women were seen, we are unable to answer the question of how many were "accepted".

Of those women referred (734), a total of 325 went on to have a face to face (including Zoom) appointment. However, please note that the remainder (409) were not necessarily "not accepted".

Those not seen will include those who did not meet criteria for entry to the service (not accepted/declined). This also includes those who did not engage with the service after being accepted, and also those who were appropriately managed without a face to face (including zoom) appointment.

We are unable to answer that part of your question regarding the number accepted without an inspection of all 409 records of those people not seen. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of the year and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

2. The current wait times for Maternal Mental Health in this District Health Board.

For those women who had a first face to face (including zoom) appointment from a referral in 2021, the average wait time, from referral to being seen, was 24.7 days.

I trust this information answers your questions.

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 sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive