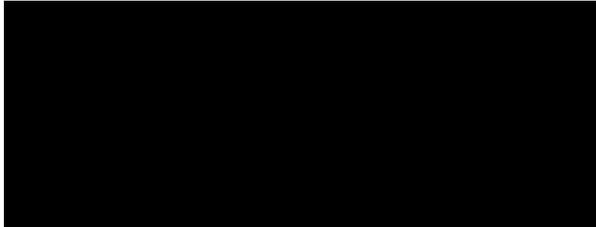


3 May 2022



Re: Official Information Act request – Mental Health Seclusion (ADHB Ref: 20220420-1208)

I refer to your Official Information Act request transferred to us by the Health Quality and Safety Commission through the Technical Advisory Service (TAS) on 20 April 2022 requesting the following information:

Has your DHB managed to eliminate seclusion?

Response

Auckland District Health Board's Mental Health and Addictions service (MH&A) is committed to reducing restrictive practices in mental health care, which we know can be traumatising both for tangata whai i ti ora and for staff. We have been part of the national programme to eliminate seclusion since the inception of this programme in March 2018.

Auckland DHB MH&A has three acute mental health inpatient units:

1. the 15-bedded older persons' acute mental health unit, Fraser MacDonald Unit (FMU)
2. the Child and Family Unit and co-located Mother and Baby Unit (CFU/MBU) which have 18 and 3 beds respectively
3. the acute adult inpatient unit, Te Whetu Tawera, which has 58 beds.

Ten years ago the MH&A service had a total of seven seclusion rooms. Currently there is just one.

The Fraser McDonald Unit does not have a seclusion room and does not practice seclusion.

The Child and Family Unit decommissioned its last remaining seclusion room on 30 November 2018, and so seclusion is not utilised within that unit.

Te Whetu Tawera decommissioned one seclusion room in November 2020, and still retains one seclusion room. Since the beginning of the programme to eliminate seclusion, the number of seclusion episodes, and the length of time for which seclusion is used has significantly decreased. For example, in the 2010 calendar year there were 192 episodes of seclusion across our MH&A service,

while for the period July 2020 to March 2022 (21 months) there were 23 episodes of seclusion in total. During this latter time period, 9 out of the 21 months had no episodes of seclusion.

We continue on our journey towards eliminating seclusion completely within our Mental Health and Addiction service at Auckland DHB. While we have not yet set a date to decommission our last seclusion room, we hope to be able to do so in the near future.

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 at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive