

2 November 2022



Tēnā koe 

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00005509 Mental Health Inpatients Going AWOL

Thank you for your request received on 4 October 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

A breakdown on how many mental health inpatients under the care of Auckland DHB have left facilities unsupervised and without leave from October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022.

May I also please have the same data from October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021. Can this be broken down between child and adolescent units and adult units.

Response

By way of context, please note the following. Te Toka Tumai has five inpatient/residential units providing care to both the local population as well as to regional and sub-regional populations. The units and relevant information are as follows:

Unit	Population	Bed numbers	Locked/unlocked
Child and Family Unit (CFU)	Children and adolescents with acute mental health needs	18	Unlocked**
Mother and Baby Unit (MBU, co-located with CFU)	Mothers with acute mental health needs, with babies	3	Unlocked*
Te Whetu Tawera (TWT)	Adults with acute mental health needs	Ward A - 23 Ward B - 23 Ward C - 12***	Unlocked* Unlocked* Locked
Fraser MacDonald Unit (FMU)	Older adults with acute mental health needs	15	Locked
Eating Disorder Unit (EDU)	Eating disorder patients	9	Unlocked*

Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre (BRC)	Patients with ongoing mental health rehabilitation needs	40	Unlocked*
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Notes

* Unlocked units will be locked at night or in specific circumstances.

** There is a locked CFU ward and an unlocked, open ward. As above, an unlocked units will be locked at night or in specific circumstances.

*** Ward C is the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Please also note that when an inpatient is absent from their unit without leave, they are assigned a rating which is based on their risk. Patients may be assigned to Category (Cat.) A, B or C.

A Cat. A rating is assigned to patients where there is a high and enduring risk alert, or where the patient is assessed as posing a serious and/or imminent risk to self, identified others or to property. Due to their age and therefore level of vulnerability, all patients absent without leave from the CFU are automatically Cat. A.

A Cat. B rating is assigned to those patients assessed as no immediate risk to themselves, others or to property, but who pose a risk under a variety of further circumstances e.g. not taking prescribed medication.

A Cat. C rating is assigned to those patients assessed as posing no risk to themselves, others or to property.

Please note that the category rating then drives the response to the patient being absent without leave. Please also note when interpreting this data that CFU and MBU are co-located.

The data you have requested follows. This numbers of patients absent without leave from the various units over two time periods. The two periods are:

- 1) October 1 2020 to October 1 2021
- 2) October 1 2021 to October 1 2022.

Unit – Time Period 1.	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Total
<i>October 1 2020 to October 1 2021</i>				
Child and Family Unit	14	0	0	14
Mother and Baby Unit	1	0	1	1
Te Whetu Tawera (TWT)				
Ward A	2	9	0	11
Ward B	18	29	0	47
Ward C (ICU)	0	0	0	0
Fraser MacDonald Unit (FMU)	0	0	0	0
Eating Disorder Unit (EDU)	0	0	0	0
Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre (BRC)	1	1	0	2
Unit - Time Period 2.				
<i>October 1 2021 to October 1 2022</i>				

Child and Family Unit	10	0	0	10
Mother and Baby Unit	2	0	0	2
Te Whetu Tawera (TWT)				
Ward A	4	5	0	9
Ward B	3	36	0	39
Ward C (ICU)	1	0	0	1
Fraser MacDonald Unit (FMU)	0	0	0	0
Eating Disorder Unit (EDU)	0	0	0	0
Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre (BRC)	9	6	1	16

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at oa@adhb.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
 New Zealand Government