

3 September 2020

Tony Hill
APEX

Via email: psychologist@apex.org.nz



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Dear Tony

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13042 re Maori Mental Health

On 05 August 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

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

We ask that the above information is emailed to us (psychologist@apex.org.nz) within 20 working days as is required by the Act, which we calculate to be 2 September 2020.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

- 1. How many Maori are referred to DHB MHAS services in the past year?**
47 Maori referred 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020. Note this data is identified using Primary Key Worker case load and does not include patients who are see by a psychologist in a co-working capacity as part of a key worker case load, (At present the service is unable to pull this information easily).
- 2. What is the average length of engagement?**
The average length of engagement is 27.4 days

- 3. What diagnoses do these people present with?**
Diagnosis is not recorded on presentation but within 90 days of first patient contact and on referral discharge;
- Disturbance of activity and attention
 - Hyperkinetic conduct disorder
 - Schizoaffective disorder unspecified
 - Post traumatic stress disorder.
- 4. How many Maori are engaged in MHAS psychology services?**
13 Maori engaged with psychology services
- 5. How many Maori have requested psychological input, but declined?**
None were declined.
- 6. How many Maori are on psychology waitlists?**
None at present.
- 7. What is the average waiting time for Maori on these psychology waitlists?**
Wait list is only for female psychologist. Generally complex cases which are taken on the order they are referred in.
- 8. How many Maori psychologists are employed by the DHBs?**
No staff who identified themselves as Maori currently work as psychologists at Whanganui DHB.
- 9. How many Maori psychologists are employed in a leadership capacity? For example, team leader or above?**
No staff who identified themselves as Maori currently work as psychologists at Whanganui DHB, including for roles which have a leadership capacity.
- 10. How many intern psychologist places do the DHB have?**
Whanganui DHB does not have dedicated intern positions. However, we have taken interns on a regular basis for some years. It is based on the senior Clinical psychologists available, who have been endorsed by the training university. Our current capacity is two, although no-one applied 2021.
- 11. What is the supervision regime for the intern psychologists?**
The interns are hired on fixed term contracts four days per week, which allows them to attend their training universities professional teaching seminars usually run on Fridays. They also complete company orientation, receive weekly face to face supervision with a senior psychologist, complete video sessions with clients which are critiqued in supervision sessions and a required supervisors report is completed three times in their intern year.
- 12. What is the average length of service of psychologists within the DHB?**
The current average length of service for Whanganui DHB psychologists is 8.1 years.
- 13. How many Psychologists have left the DHB over the last twelve months, what was the reason given for leaving?**
One intern psychologist left their employment with Whanganui DHB over the preceding 12 months due to "end of fixed term" resulting from the end of her internship.
- One senior clinical psychologist left their employment with Whanganui DHB due to "other reasons" to pursue a business opportunity.
- 14. How many psychologists are on work visas?**
None

15. How many vacancies for psychologists does the DHB have?

A full-time equivalent clinical psychologist vacancy has been advertised for Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (MICAMHS) since March 2020, without any applications. Resulting from this, negotiations with Massey University are in progress to co-design a model with MICAMHS for one year to fill that clinical psychologist vacancy.

16. How long have the vacancies for psychologists been open?

Note above comment – would be approximately four months from time for advertising until vacancy was pulled.

17. What current initiatives are in place to provide education in house to Psychologists?

Whanganui DHB does not have any formal inhouse education programmes for psychologists. This may be difficult due to the various experience levels of WDHB psychologists.

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

Currently gaps are filled by contracting services from Massey University.

In addition, WDHB is currently working on improving data in the patient management system (Web Pas) and Clinical Portal. This will be a platform within webPAS to capture accurately the information for MHAS/Psychology service. This will capture the Co-working activity with Psychologists and Key Workers, reflecting a therapeutic model of care.

19. Are there any psychologists at the DHB employed in the Emergency department?

No

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive