

25 February 2020

Wilhelmina Shrimpton

Via email: wilhelminashrimpton@mediaworks.co.nz



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

Dear Ms Shrimpton

Official Information Act Request – Mental Health & Addictions Waitlist

On 30 January 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Under the Official Information Act (1982) I would like to request the following information about addiction services and subsequent wait times to access them.

- Can you please provide a list of the different types of addiction services people can access through the public health system?
- How many rehab and detox beds are currently available through the public health system for people addicted to drugs and alcohol?
- How many people were put on a waitlist to access detox and rehab addiction services each year over the past four years (2016 – 2019).
- Can each year please be broken down into months ie the number of people each month put on a waitlist?
- Can the waitlisted people please be broken down into category ie what service it was that they were wanting to access, and were subsequently waitlisted for?
- Can you please categorise these waitlisted people into wait-times. ie those who had to wait 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks and so on....

If there is anything that is within the spirit of this request that has not been covered by this email then please consider it to be included in this request.

If I can help progress this request in any way, either by answering your questions or by refining it, I am happy to discuss it with you. I can be contacted at any time on 021 711 697.

Whanganui District Health Board response:

Question 1: Can you please provide a list of different types of addiction services people can access through the public health system?

A list of different types of addiction services people can access through the public health system includes, and is not limited to; counselling services, face to face appointments with an allocated key worker (who offer a variety of talk therapies), relapse prevention and support groups, support worker involvement, opioid substitution treatment (OST), planned managed withdrawal services, (provided within a variety of settings), appointments with specialist addiction's Doctor, referral to medically

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managed inpatient withdrawal services , referrals to Iwi Services and cultural support services, referral to day program, referral to residential to rehabilitation, Information and referrals to addiction focused community-based groups and NGO's , including family support services.

Question 2: How many rehab and detox beds are currently available through the public health system for people addicted to drugs and alcohol?

The Wanganui District Health Board has access to 3 detox beds and have a referral process that provides access to regional rehabilitation beds in partnership with the Salvation Army service who are managed by Capital and Coast DHB

Question 3: How many people were put on a wait list to access detox and rehab addiction services each year over the past 4 years (2016–2019)

Wait times are targeted according to funded services:

Addictions (Provider Arm and NGO)				
	<= 3 weeks		<8 weeks	
Age	Target (%)	Achieved (%)	Target (%)	Achieved (%)
12-19	80%	83.8%	95%	92.5%
0-19	80%	79.6%	95%	88.2%
20-64	80%	64.3%	95%	92.3%
65+	80%	62.5%	95%	91.4%
Total	80%	68.7%	95%	91.9%

Question 4: Can each year please be broken down into months i.e. a number of people each month put on a wait list?

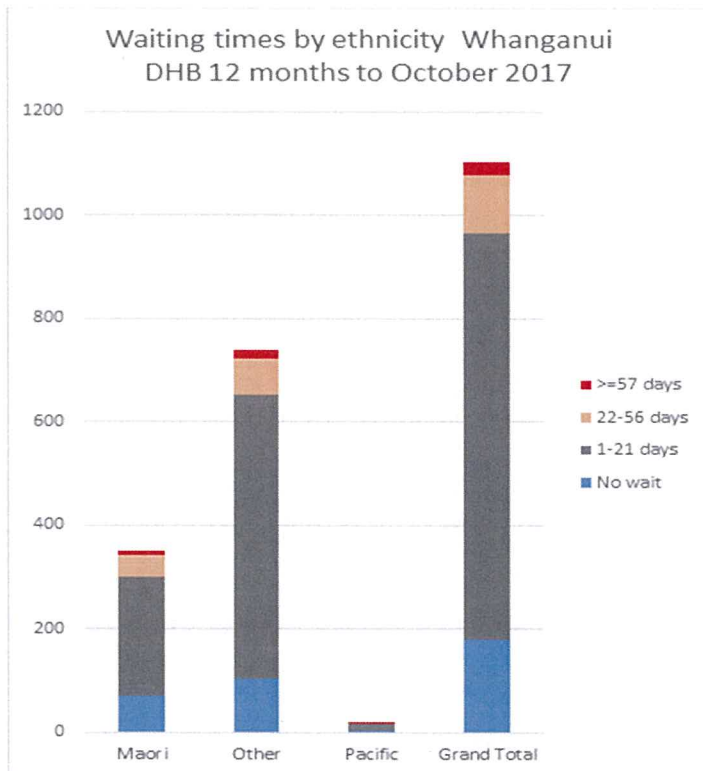
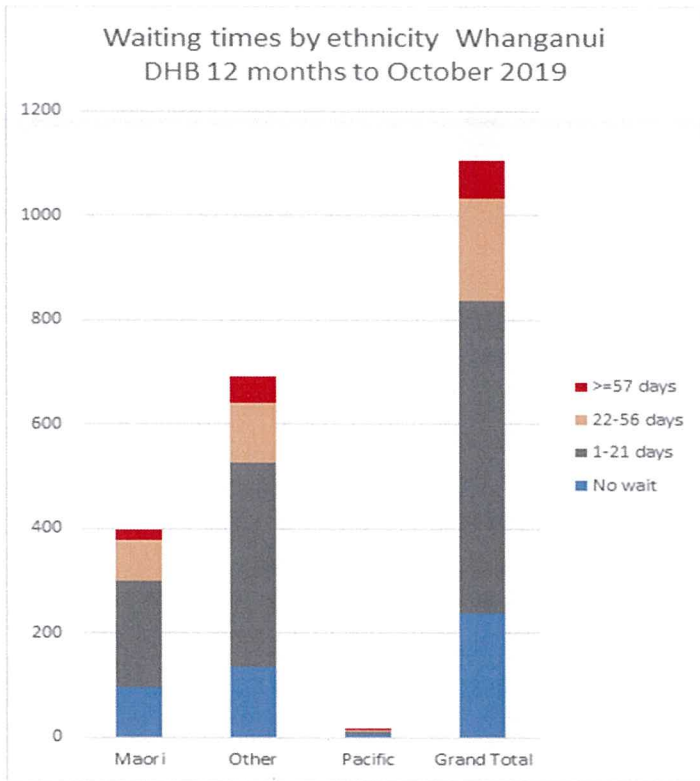
This information is not available because WDHB electronic patient management system functionality is not able to provide this information yet.

Question 5: Can the waitlisted people please be broken down into category i.e. what service it was that they were wanting to access and subsequently waitlisted for

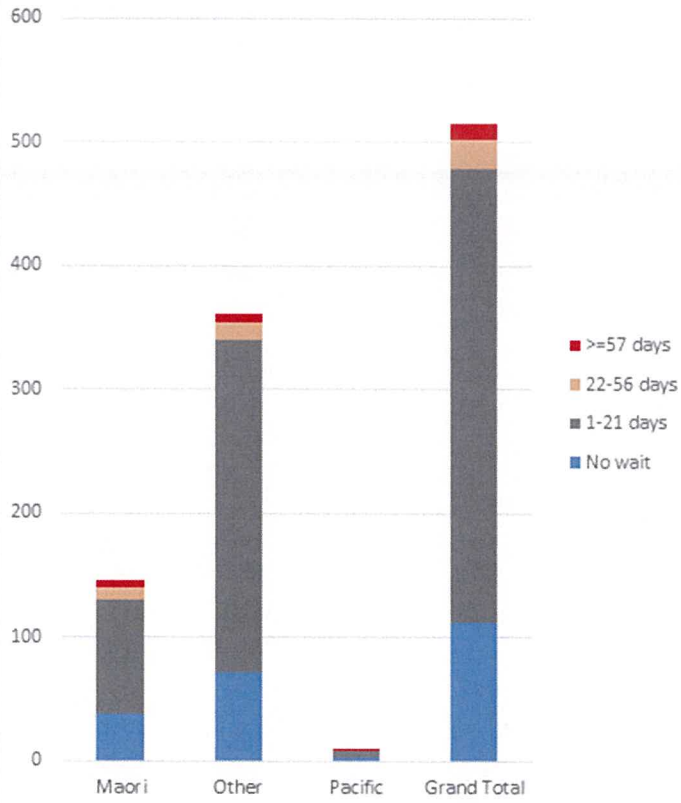
Please refer to the above table for age ranges.

Question 6 Can you please categorise these waitlisted people in to wait times i.e. those who had to wait 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks and so on

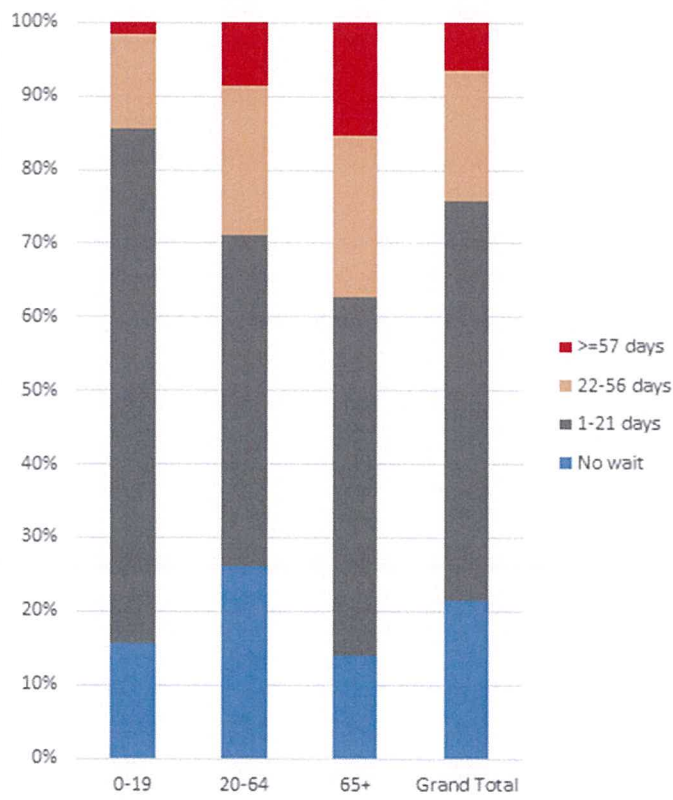
The wait times for by age and ethnicity for 2019 are explained in the following graphs

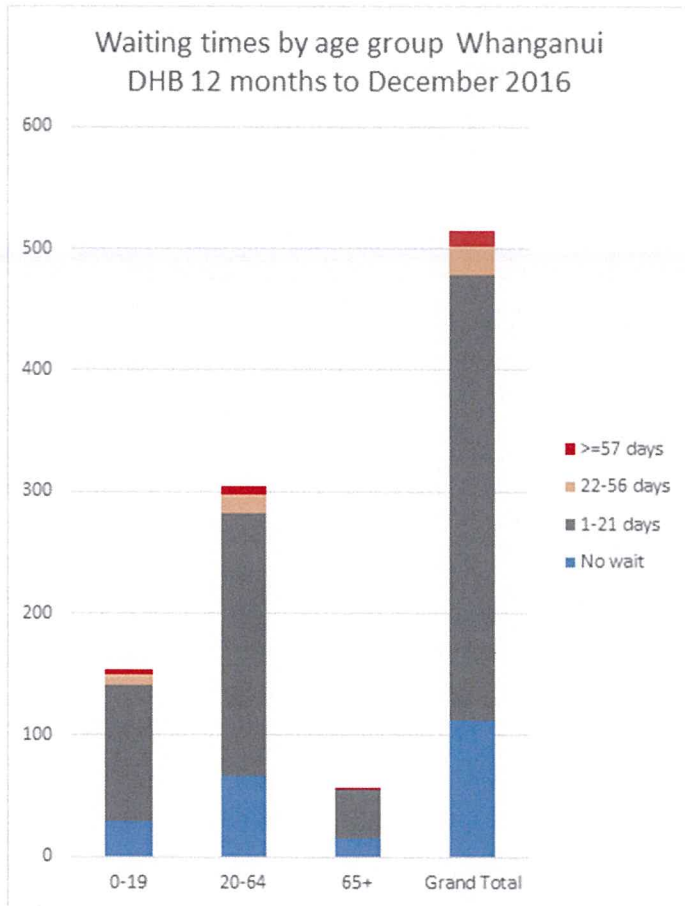


Waiting times by ethnicity Whanganui
DHB 12 months to December 2016



Waiting times by age group Whanganui
DHB 12 months to October 2019





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