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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10526

I refer to your email dated 15 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people treated at Canterbury District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related admissions. Can you please break it down by age groups of those treated and ethnicity.**

Please refer to **Appendix 1**, which contains data on the number of people who presented at Canterbury DHB's emergency department from 2016 to January 2021 for MDMA related symptoms. This data is split into three Tables and is broken down by month for each year requested, and also by age group and ethnicity for the calendar years 2016 to 2021.

Please note: the data shows numbers presented at the emergency department (ED) by arrival date, where either MDMA or Ecstasy has specifically been noted. It is not mandatory to gather data on specific drugs and additionally MDMA may not have been the primary reason for presentation so may not have been noted at the time.

2. **Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people admitted to Canterbury District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related harm. Eg for those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system. Can you please break it down by age groups of those admitted and ethnicity.**

Please refer to **Appendix 2**, which contains data on the number of people admitted to Christchurch Hospital from 2016 to December 2020 for MDMA related harm (those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system). This data is split into three Tables and is broken down by month for each year requested, and also by age group and ethnicity for the calendar years 2016 to 2020.

3. **Please provide a monthly breakdown of patients admitted to Canterbury District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (Including through the COVID-19 period) for consuming substances disguised as MDMA e.g. Synthetic Cathinones.**

Canterbury DHB is unable to provide a breakdown of patients admitted to Hospital for consuming substances disguised as MDMA (for example, synthetic Cathinones) as this information is not coded and collated in a central database that can easily be accessed or reported on. This information may be contained in an individual's clinical notes; however, we would need to manually search the clinical notes of each individual patient presenting at the emergency department or admitted into hospital during this requested timeframe in order to provide a response.

We are therefore declining to provide a response to this part of the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *"that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research"*.

4. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who have died from MDMA related harm at Canterbury District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

Canterbury DHB is unable to provide a breakdown on numbers of people who have died specifically from MDMA related harm, as this information on cause of death is not coded and collated in a central information system that can be reported on. Information on cause of death may be contained in a patient's individual clinical notes but searching for this data would require a substantial amount of time.

We are therefore declining to provide a response to this part of the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *"that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research"*.

5. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Canterbury District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA use.

Please refer to **Appendix 3**, which shows the total cost of **both** MDMA presentations at Canterbury DHB's Emergency Department and admissions into Hospital (by discharge date) between the years 2016 and 2020. Costs for calendar years 2018 to 2020 (to date available) are broken down by the month in which presentations and discharges took place.

Please note: During the calendar years 2016 and 2017, not all costing information was entered into Canterbury DHB's PPM costing data system in relation to MDMA presentations and admissions. Consequently, the monthly data for these two years is incomplete. We are therefore providing annual costs only for these two calendar years, as a rough indication of costs spent by Canterbury DHB.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. 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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support

Appendix 1: Number of patients presented at Canterbury DHB's Emergency Department for MDMA between 2016 and 2021, broken down by age and ethnicity.

Table One: Number of Emergency Department presentations for MDMA.

Calendar Year & Month	Number of Emergency Department presentations
2016	6
Feb	2
Mar	1
Sep	1
Oct	2
2017	13
Mar	1
Apr	2
May	1
Jun	2
Sep	1
Oct	2
Nov	3
Dec	1
2018	65
Jan	2
Feb	15
Mar	6
Apr	4
May	3
Jun	3
Jul	8
Aug	4
Sep	3
Oct	5
Nov	4
Dec	8
2019	94
Jan	3
Feb	10
Mar	10
Apr	9
May	5
Jun	7
Jul	2
Aug	7
Sep	7
Oct	13
Nov	10
Dec	11

2020	125
Jan	13
Feb	20
Mar	6
Apr	6
May	11
Jun	4
Jul	10
Aug	11
Sep	6
Oct	17
Nov	6
Dec	15
2021	19
Jan	19
Grand Total	322

Table Two: Patients presented at ED for MDMA between 2016 and 2021 broken down by age group.

Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
10-19	3	1	15	21	32	3	75
20-29	2	12	47	57	67	12	197
30-39	1		2	14	20	2	39
40-49			1	2	4	1	8
50-59					1	1	2
60-69					1		1
Grand Total	6	13	65	94	125	19	322

Table Three: Patients presented at ED for MDMA between 2016 and 2021 broken down by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
European	4	9	49	76	82	14	234
Maori	1	1	11	14	30	3	60
Maori, European	1	3	2	1	3		10
Asian			1	1	3		5
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African				1	2	1	4
Pacific Peoples			1		2		3
Maori, Pacific Peoples				1	1		2
Other Ethnicity, European					1	1	2
Asian, European			1				1
Other Ethnicity					1		1
Grand Total	6	13	65	94	125	19	322

Appendix 2: Number of patients admitted to Christchurch Hospital for MDMA related harm between 2016 and December 2020, broken down by age and ethnicity.

Table One: Number of patients admitted to Christchurch Hospital for MDMA related harm.

Calendar Year & Month	Number of patients admitted
2016	8
Apr	1
Sep	1
Oct	5
Dec	1
2017	11
Feb	1
Mar	1
Jun	2
Jul	3
Aug	1
Nov	1
Dec	2
2018	27
Feb	4
Mar	6
Apr	2
May	2
Jun	3
Jul	4
Nov	4
Dec	2
2019	22
Jan	1
Feb	4
Mar	3
May	2
Aug	3
Sep	3
Oct	2
Nov	2
Dec	2
2020	10
Jan	1
Feb	2
Apr	2
May	1
Sep	1
Oct	2
Nov	1
Grand Total	78

Table Two: Patients admitted for MDMA related harm between 2016 and December 2020 broken down by age group.

Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
10-19	3	2	5	5	4	19
20-29	5	9	18	12	3	47
30-39			2	5	1	8
40-49			2		1	3
50-59					1	1
Grand Total	8	11	27	22	10	78

Table Three: Patients admitted for MDMA related harm between 2016 and December 2020 broken down by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
European	7	4	19	17	5	52
Maori	1	5	7	5	3	21
Asian					2	2
Maori, European		1	1			2
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African		1				1
Grand Total	8	11	27	22	10	78

Appendix 3 – Total cost of MDMA presentations and admissions (by discharge date) for Canterbury DHB, broken down by year and the month in which presentation/admission occurred.

Year & Month of Presentation/Admission	Total Costs (\$)
2016	
Total for Calendar Year	\$3,730.63
2017	
Total for Calendar Year	\$61,867.55
2018	
January	\$514.87
February	\$4,821.75
March	\$12,103.26
April	\$2,257.71
May	\$2,873.58
June	\$1,464.79
July	\$36,275.59
August	\$1,657.65
September	\$656.20
October	\$1,567.03
November	\$3,127.79
December	\$3,483.32
2019	
January	\$2,034.2
February	\$10,525.73
March	\$4,007.18
April	\$2,364.62
May	\$2,725.92
June	\$203.94
July	\$1,461.09
August	\$19,837.81
September	\$7,147.56
October	\$5,526.12
November	\$5,872.12
December	\$4,983.49
2020	
January	\$5,524.33
February	\$9,044.11
March	\$980.94
April	\$12,491.79
May	\$2,565.11
June	\$1,163.13