

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165

Ralph.Lasalle@cdhb.health.nz

08 September 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10380

I refer to your email dated 5 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. How many Maori are referred to DHB MHAS services in the past year;

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of Maori referred to Canterbury DHB Mental Health Services in the past year.

Table one:

Referrals	Maori
Total number of referrals	5151
Unique NHI ¹	2444
Case starts ²	1955

The **table** above has the total referrals for Maori for the 12 months up to the end of July 2020 which includes multiple referrals for the same individual.

¹The unique NHI are the total individual Maori with one or more referrals during the period.

²Case starts are the number of cases proceeding beyond referral to engagement with a service and the average case duration is for all those cases with a case start.

2. What is the average length of engagement;

The average case duration was 43.92 days.

3. What diagnoses do these people present with;

Diagnoses cover the spectrum of presentations seen within Specialist Mental Health which include: mood and anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, substance dependence, eating disorders and personality disorders.

4. How many Maori are engaged in MHAS psychology services;

There are 219 Maori patients recorded as having had 1497 contacts with a psychologist or psychology services during the reference period.

5. How many Maori have requested psychological input, but declined;

This information is not coded and consequently we have no data.

6. How many Maori are on psychology waitlists;

We do not hold this information in an easily retrievable electronic system. Patients are referred to a multidisciplinary team for assessment and treatment planning. Once treatment goals are identified, the person is allocated to the clinician within the team who is best placed to meet these treatment goals. This may include a psychologist. We are therefore declining a response to the specific detail of this question pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...we do not hold this information"*.

7. What is the average waiting time for Maori on these psychology waitlists;

Refer to response for question 6.

8. How many Maori psychologists are employed by the DHBs;

There are currently five Maori psychologists employed by the Canterbury DHB.

9. How many Maori psychologists are employed in a leadership capacity? For example, team leader or above;

There are no Maori psychologists employed in a leadership capacity.

10. How many intern psychologist places do the DHB have;

The Canterbury DHB currently has ten Intern psychologists.

11. What is the supervision regime for the intern psychologists;

Psychology Interns all have regular supervision with a psychologist with at least three years' experience. The frequency of supervision is typically weekly, though this may vary depending on leave etc. There will typically also be additional informal consultations for discussion of cases, reports and treatment planning on a regular basis and assistance with preparation for the final exam in addition to the regular one to one sessions.

This will often involve other psychologists apart from the person who is designated as the primary supervisor.

12. What is the average length of service of psychologists within the DHB;

The average length of service for psychologists within the Canterbury DHB is 6.2 years (excludes Interns).

13. How many Psychologists have left the DHB over the last twelve months, what was the reason given for leaving;

There were 19 psychologists, out of a total of 129, who left the Canterbury DHB over the last twelve months. (12 resignations and 7 Fixed-Term Contracts).

Canterbury DHB does not hold information on why people resign their positions. We are therefore declining a response to the specific detail of this question pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...we do not hold this information"*.

14. How many psychologists are on work visa's;

There are four psychologists currently on work visas.

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

The Canterbury DHB currently has 2.5 FTE vacancies for psychologists.

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

These vacancies have been open for 24 days.

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

There are a wide range of in-house training opportunities provided for Canterbury DHB clinical staff, some of which are relevant to Psychologists – for example: weekly grand rounds and clinical/research presentations, as well as other more specific training courses (e.g., courses relating to risk, family safety, bicultural practice, leadership).

Psychologists also have the opportunity to attend a Psychology Forum/education day which currently occurs bi-annually and Allied Health education forums which are held at least bi-annually. In addition, there are a number of psychology-led special interest groups focusing on specific areas of practice that psychologists can join across the DHB. Where feasible, psychologists are also given opportunity to upskill for specific tasks/roles they agree to take on.

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

Psychologists are embedded in clinical teams throughout the DHB. Clinical teams monitor consumer need and review FTE requirements in line with demand, wherever possible.

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

There are no psychologists employed in the Emergency Department.

Mental health needs are responded to in ED by Specialist Mental Health Services who have clinicians available to respond to people who present with mental health concerns. Following assessment in ED,

people can then be referred through for inpatient admission or community based follow up, which may include Psychology.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R LaSalle".

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