

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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30 October 2018

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### RE Official information request CDHB 9955

We refer to your email dated 9 October 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. I note your request was clarified on 11 October 2018 as below:

- 1. With our Christchurch mental health system in "crisis", how many more clinicians do you need to deal with the increase of need post-quake?**

The mental health system is not 'in-crisis' – the sustained demand and workforce challenges are creating pressure but overall the system continues to respond to people in need.

For example, the increase in presentations to the Canterbury DHB Child Adolescent and Family Service is the result of a combination of factors – a consequence of the earthquakes along with an increase in societal stress, pressure and anxiety.

These increases are occurring nation-wide but not to the same extent as in Canterbury, which is why we believe the earthquakes have contributed to some of our demand.

Staffing levels have increased across Canterbury DHB Specialist Mental Health Services, NGO/Community Services and Primary Mental Health Services.

Funding allocated to the Canterbury DHB is not funded for specific positions. The funding allocated to DHBs is based on its population and demographic. The DHB then determines how best to meet the various needs within its community.

There have been vacancies in the workforce with 21 vacancies in the CAF service at the end of 2017. The Canterbury DHB is actively recruiting for staff across the whole of specialist mental health services including Child and Family Services.

**2. How much more funding do we need from the Government in order to be help reduce these waitlists and provide effective treatment?**

Additional funding would not necessarily result in being able to recruit staff as there are workforce shortages and a limited pool of trained people across health, justice and social services. Recent changes to pay and conditions in some areas is resulting in workforce movement and this creates gaps elsewhere.

**3. How often has the CDHB approached the Government for more funding, and for how much? (From February 2011 to end of September 2018)**

Canterbury DHB developed a proposal with the Ministry of Health after the 2016 Valentines Day Earthquakes to increase capacity across the system. It included continuation of the All Right Campaign and totalled more than \$20 million over thirty-eight months.

Early this year the government signalled their intention to provide additional support for Canterbury children and families. In response Canterbury DHB worked with Education and developed a response that is now known as Mana Ake. The funding for this is approximately \$27 million over three years.

We currently have another proposal for a number of initiatives across the mental health system under consideration by MOH.

**4. Please indicate on which occasions we received funding [and] on what occasions we were declined. (From February 2011 to end of September 2018)**

We received funding in 2016 and 2018 as outlined above. We have not had a funding request declined to date.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Greg Hamilton  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**