

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

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9 August 2018

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RE Official information request CDHB 9882

We refer to your Official Information Act request to the Ministry of Health dated 5 June 2018. The Ministry of Health subsequently transferred question 2 to Canterbury DHB on 21 June 2018. I note your request was clarified on 27 June 2018.

1. Number of deaths from suicide while person was in any form of state DHB care (voluntary and under THE ACT) over last 10 years?

From 2008 to 2017, thirty five people died while under the care of a Specialist Mental Health Service inpatient unit at either Hillmorton Hospital or Princess Margaret Hospital. In addition two hundred and eighty five people died while under the care of Specialist Mental Health Services outpatient teams - of these, thirty six were under the Mental Health Act.

147 were recorded as suspected suicides while under the care of a Specialist Mental Health Service (either within inpatient units or under the care of community mental health services).

A death can only be classified as suicide by a coroner on completion of the coroner's inquiry. However it can take between 12 and 36 months for a coroner's finding to have been received and documented. According to our records, 10 deaths have been confirmed as suicide through a coroner's inquest. Deaths in 2016/17 and 2017/18 are unlikely to have been considered by the Coroner at this stage. Other deaths would have been due to natural causes, accidents or injury, not related to a self-harm or a suicide attempt. All people over the period in question who died while in inpatient care or under a Compulsory Treatment Order under the Mental Health Act while in community care would have been referred for an inquest to the Coroner's Office.

2. All self-harm/ attempted suicide over last 10 years within the DHB's Mental Health Services' care (under Act or not)

From 2008 to 2017 3,884 self-harm/attempted suicide events were recorded for people under the care of Specialist Mental Health Services inpatient units at either Hillmorton Hospital or Princess Margaret Hospital. **Please note** it is not possible to differentiate between self-harm events and attempted suicides.

3. Number of deaths from suicide following admission to MH services collated as follows:

a. MH general

Please see response to Question 1.

b. MH ICU

Two deaths occurred in 'MH ICU' areas between 2008 and 2017. (These are included in the 35 deaths referred to in Question 1).

c. General ICU

This information is not held under the category requested.

Please note by way of context, it is important to correlate the figures above to the number of people under the care of Specialist Mental Health Service at any given time. The table below shows the totals for each year during the period in question.

Year	Number of People
2008	10208
2009	11040
2010	11640
2011	11315
2012	11801
2013	12567
2014	13131
2015	13681
2016	14209
2017	14461

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

This response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support