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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10528

I refer to your email dated 19 January 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **The pathway to access specialised eating disorder care within the DHB.**

The South Island Eating Disorders Service (SIEDS) based in Canterbury, provides specialist inpatient beds for five DHBs in the South Island alongside specialist outpatient treatment, training, supervision and consultation.

People with eating disorders are managed in their local area wherever possible, with their care coordinated by an Eating Disorders Liaison person based within each DHB. They may be admitted to their local hospital if they are medically compromised, or if they require hospital-based care whilst waiting on an inpatient SIEDS bed. Access to SIEDS inpatient beds are based on acuity.

The waiting list is reviewed weekly. Non-urgent cases will be reviewed via telemedicine session.

Within Canterbury, people are initially treated as outpatients and are regularly reviewed by the multidisciplinary team. This includes access to a General Medicine Physician and a specialist Paediatrician. Where the patient is failing to make gains as an outpatient, the possibility of an inpatient stay will be discussed with the patient and their family/whanau. They will be placed on the inpatient waiting list as required.

Canterbury referrals are predominantly made by GPs. Other referrers include Paediatrics, and Child and Family Mental Health services (CAF) and Adult Mental Health services. The referrals from Child, Adolescents and Family (CAF) and Adult Mental Health services tend to be for those people where the eating disorder is not the primary presenting problem. SIEDS provides consultation into those services.

Those aged under 12 years with eating disorders are treated within CAF services and the clinical team are supported by the SIEDS team.

- Broken down by age and sex, the current number of people awaiting treatment for eating disorders via that pathway - i.e. through the DHB mental health team, or specialist treatment facility.

Table one: Current waitlist for eating disorders

Waitlist EDT	Male	Female	Other
Under 18	<5	32	0
18 and Over	<5	49	0

***Note** Due to the low numbers we have aggregated some data and are declining to provide numbers <5 pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect individual privacy.

- The number of people admitted to hospital (including paediatric hospitals or wards) with an eating disorder or a suspected eating disorder, broken down by name of facility, age and sex, between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2020.

Table two: Number of people admitted to hospital between 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2020

Admissions	Male	Female	Other
Under 18	20	336	<5
18 and Over	<5	236	0

***Note** Due to the low numbers we have aggregated some data and are declining to provide numbers <5 pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect individual privacy.

- The number of people who have accessed specialised eating disorder services between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, by inpatient or outpatient status, sex and age.

Table three: Access by Unique NHI between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020

Community	Male	Female	Other
Under 18	13	109	<5
18 and Over	21	249	0
Inpatient	Male	Female	Other
Under 18	<5	18	<5
18 and Over	0	23	0

***Note** Due to the low numbers we have aggregated some data and are declining to provide numbers <5 pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect individual privacy.

- If not available within the DHB catchment area, where can patients access publicly funded, specialised eating disorder care?

Service is available in the South Island region including Canterbury.

If eating disorder treatment services are contracted out and / or delivered by primary health care providers, please provide the name of the organisation delivering the service.

Services are not contracted out. However, most people are treated in the Outpatient setting with support from the Primary Health Care providers.

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, appearing to read 'R La Salle', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

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