

15 September 2022

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request ChChD 10942 / HNZ 3113

I refer to your email dated 17 August 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Waitaha Canterbury. Specifically:

1. How many mental health care workers are employed in the district?

Please see below in **Table one** the breakdown of FTE by discipline and the grand total:

Row Labels	Sum of Budgeted FTE	Sum of Actual FTE	Sum of Vacancies
Psychiatrist	57.81	48.93	-8.87
Psychologist	59.65	53.50	-6.15
Social worker	82.18	79.91	-2.27
Nurse	639.68	542.47	-97.22
Other	297.07	279.97	-17.09
Grand Total	1,136.38	1,004.77	-131.61

2. Can this please be broken down by psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, clinical social workers, mental health nurses or other mental health staff?

Please refer to **Table one** above in question one. We do not employ counsellors. Other mental health staff include health professionals, cultural workers, administrative staff, managers etc.

3. How many vacant roles are there currently within the mental health team?

Please refer to **Table one** above in question one.

4. What are the roles that need to be filled?

Please refer to **Table one** above in question one.

5. What is the current average wait time for the first appointment with mental health services?

The current average wait time for the first face to face appointment is 18.2 days.

6. What is the current average wait time to see a psychiatrist?

Specialist Mental Health Service Canterbury does not have waiting lists for people to specifically see a psychiatrist. A new person referred to specialist mental health will be assessed by members of the multi-disciplinary team, which may include a psychiatrist. This assessment is then usually triaged through a multi-disciplinary team meeting, which will include a psychiatrist or a psychiatric registrar.

7. How many people were seen by the district's mental health services in 2021, and 2022 so far?

Table two: Number of people seen by district's mental health service 2021 to 2022 YTD

Year	Contacts
2021	19,7437
2022 YTD	11,9923
Grand Total	31,7360

8. Do you have a priority system in place to determine who needs to be seen most urgently?

Priority and urgency is determined by the nature of the presenting issue, severity of illness, level of impairment/distress, and assessed risk to self or others when an individual presents to services. A person's relevant history of mental health difficulties and current supports available are also considered during the triage process.

9. Could you outline the levels and the definitions that align with those priority levels?

There are three levels of response:

- Acute response (same day)
- Urgent assessment (within five days – may need support from Crisis Resolution while waiting)
- Routine or non-acute assessment

These levels are determined based on the criteria described in question 8

10. What is the district's definition of a mental health crisis?

There is no district definition of a mental health crisis, however for the purpose of engaging people with services, crisis is used to describe a presentation where there is immediate safety or risk concerns due to the person's mental health presentation or where someone is acutely mentally unwell requiring urgent or immediate assessment and support.

11. How much funding has been dedicated to districts' mental health services in the past five years?

Table three Mental Health services funding over past five years.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Total mental health services funding	170,197	175,258	184,244	191,124	200,691

12. Of that total how much has been dedicated to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)?

Please refer to **Table four (below)** for spending dedicated to child adolescent and family (CAF) mental health services.

Table four Child and adolescent (CAF) mental health services funding over the past five years

	\$000's				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Total CAF mental health services funding	22,526	23,693	31,204	25,858	24,771
<i>Child & Adolescent as a % of total</i>	<i>13.2%</i>	<i>13.5%</i>	<i>16.9%</i>	<i>13.5%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>

Note: Funding for CAF mental health service funding includes internal funding for services provided by the former DHB's specialist mental health services team and funding to external providers. Internal funding is allocated on prices determined locally as there are no national prices. For the **2019-2020** financial year these prices were increased. A further review in **2020-2021** found some of the prices required an adjustment to reflect actual cost of service delivery, therefore the funding provided was adjusted to better reflect cost of service delivery. There were no material changes in services delivered across these years, the decrease in funding reflects the adjusted prices.

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 Waitaha Canterbury website after your receipt of this response.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



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Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.