

29 January 2021



Oli Lewis

Via email: oli.lewis720@gmail.com

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Dear Oli

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13276 Condition of Acute Mental Health Units

On 10 December 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

This is a request under the Official Information Act for information relating to the condition of acute mental health units around the country.

I'm sending this request to every DHB to understand what facilities each DHB runs, how many beds they have in total, the condition of their buildings and to build a nationwide picture of demand.

I'm a freelance journalist with extensive experience reporting on health infrastructure and issues. The piece does not yet have a publisher. That will be determined once I get the information back, but my intent is to use the information in published articles.

I'm aware of the existence of the National Asset Management Programme and know that, as part of the NAMP process, DHBs have been required to self-assess their buildings. I'll be asking for this information as well as information gathered by the ministry as part of the NAMP reporting on mental health units.

Please provide the following information:

- 1) The name, location and number of beds for each mental health and intellectual disability unit (this includes forensic units) operated by your DHB.
- 2) All reports carried out by the Ombudsman in the past five years on any one of these units.
- 3) For each unit, please provide the occupancy data for the 12 months ending November 30. What I mean by this is the average occupancy (in bed numbers) each month and the number of times the unit was caring for more patients than it had beds.
- 4) Please describe what strategies your DHB employs to house and care for people in mental health and intellectual disability units if there are too few beds. Does your DHB turn office space/seclusion rooms into bedrooms? If not, how do you manage demand.
- 5) Please provide the most recent engineering/building report for each of your mental health and intellectual disability units (again, this includes forensic units).
- 6) Please provide the self-assessment data collected by your DHB and submitted to the Ministry of Health for each of your mental health and intellectual disability units.

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

1) The name, location and number of beds for each mental health and intellectual disability unit (this includes forensic units) operated by WDHB.

Stanford House – Extended Term Regional Medium Secure Forensic Service

Stanford House is a forensic inpatient service situated on the Whanganui District Health Board hospital campus. The unit provides for adult male tangata whaiora, aged 20 or older, who require high levels of observation, intensive treatment and/or secure care over extended periods. Stanford House has a rights-based approach which is directed towards promoting and protecting human rights. The recovery approach means working towards supporting tangata whaiora to live a fulfilled life and strive to reach their full potential. Funded for 15 beds – currently with 16 tangata whaiora.

Te Awhina is an adult acute inpatient mental health unit, also on the WDHB hospital campus, with 12 funded beds. These 12 beds are funded as seven acute beds and five intensive therapy beds. The unit admits people from the age 18 with no upper age limit.

2) All reports carried out by the Ombudsman in the past five years on any one of these units.

We are currently awaiting a report from an announced visit on 17 – 18 September 2020.

For a report from 2017, please see **Appendix 1**.

3) For each unit, please provide the occupancy data for the 12 months ending November 30. What I mean by this is the average occupancy (in bed numbers) each month and the number of times the unit was caring for more patients than it had beds.

Stanford House: Occupancy rate was 100% for the past 12 months. Since 26 September 2018 the unit has had 16 patients – one over the number of beds.

Te Awhina: See **Appendix 2**.

4) Please describe what strategies your DHB employs to house and care for people in mental health and intellectual disability units if there are too few beds. Does your DHB turn office space/seclusion rooms into bedrooms? If not, how do you manage demand.

Stanford House has a one bedroom flat attached to the unit which is utilised as a bedroom for the one additional patient.

Te Awhina: Geographically Te Awhina is divided into 4 areas.

These have been designated as:

- **Kea** - acute care, comprising of one room with an ensuite bathroom and five separate bedrooms
- **Kereru** -in the same corridor is the internal entrance to the Kereru suite which can be used flexibly, either as two bedrooms for acute care service users or as an IPC space. This area is separate from other service users and has its own entrance from the street and its own secure courtyard, lounge, kitchenette and ablution facilities.
- **Tui** - is the designated intensive care area. It comprises two bedrooms and can be fully separated from the rest of the unit.
- **Kiwi** - is the designated seclusion area. It comprises a foyer, off which is a very small bedroom intended for use by a person who is in the process of integrating into a less intensive level of care.

Te Awhina also has several auxiliary rooms which can be used if accommodation needs require this. These areas allow flexibility and care options to meet the needs of the tangata whaiora with dignity. Also, while we sometimes do appear to be over our capacity at any time, we do have tangata whaiora on leave as discharge plans are being implemented.

5) Please provide the most recent engineering/building report for each of your mental health and intellectual disability units (again, this includes forensic units).

For the 2020 Clinical Facility Fit for Purpose report, please see **Appendix 3**.

We do not have and have not had any reason to produce, engineering reports for Te Awhina or Stanford House, that impact service delivery. Both buildings have been refurbished over the last decade and have had seismic structure studies completed. Please see **Appendix 4** for the information relative to Stanford House and Te Awhina.

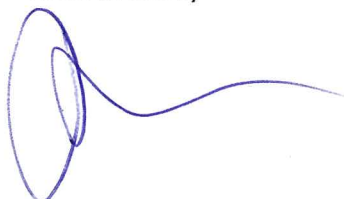
6) Please provide the self-assessment data collected by your DHB and submitted to the Ministry of Health for each of your mental health and intellectual disability units

Stanford House Tracer Audit from June 2020 attached, please see **Appendix 5**.

Please see "WDHB Certification Audit" (**Appendix 6**) attached separately because of size of file.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive