

17 December 2020

Tony Hill
Advocate
APEX



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
Te Poari Hauora o Whanganui

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

Via email: psychologist@apex.org.nz

Dear Tony

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13246 Maori Specific Mental Health Services

On 18 November 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

1. How many non-Maori are currently on a waitlist for psychological intervention with a psychologist?
AND
2. If Maori specific mental health services exist within the DHB MHAS:
 - a. What are the criteria for acceptance into these services?
 - b. How many referrals were made to these services between 1 July, 2019 and 30 June, 2020? Please provide numbers of referrals for each service where there is more than one service.
 - c. What psychiatric diagnoses did these people present with?
 - d. How many referrals were accepted by these services in the absence of a psychiatric diagnosis? Please provide numbers of referrals for each service.
 - e. How many of these referrals were declined? What were the three most common reasons for a referral being declined?

Whanganui District Health Board's response:

1. How many non-Maori are currently on a waitlist for psychological intervention with a psychologist?

Child adolescent services have one non-Maori on a waitlist to see a psychologist however will be seen in the next 2 weeks

There are nine people on the psychotherapy waitlist numbers for adult services, one Maori and 8 non-Maori. It would therefore be a breach of their privacy to release their diagnoses and the medications they may be prescribed as they may be easily identified.

AND

2. If Maori specific mental health services exist within the DHB MHAS:

Whanganui DHB does not have any Maori specific services for child /adolescents but does have a close working relationship with the local Iwi services. The Iwi service as well as the DHB Maori support team (Haumoana) attend our MDT where Maori clients are discussed. The child adolescent service works collaboratively with iwi services as needed to ensure Maori young people get the service best suited to their needs.

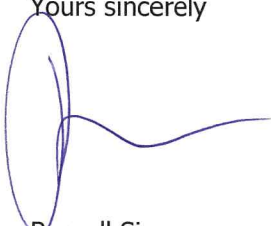
Whanganui DHB do *not* have Maori specific mental health services within the DHB MHAS but work with Haumoana Navigators (who are not themselves clinicians) when providing care for Maori within the DHB (not only in Mental Health services) and with an NGO, Te Oranganui Mental

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

- a. **What are the criteria for acceptance into these services?**
A desire to work with a Maori/iwi provider
- b. **How many referrals were made to these services between 1 July, 2019 and 30 June, 2020? Please provide numbers of referrals for each service where there is more than one service.**
N/A - no Maori specific mental health services exist within the DHB MHAS.
- c. **What psychiatric diagnoses did these people present with?**
We do not have numbers as they are not within the DHB but diagnosis as such is not seen as relevant – it may be that there is need due to any one of the elements of underpinning Te Whare Tapa Wha (Taha Tinana, Taha Whanau, Taha Hinengaro or Taha Wairua) and it is the tangata whai ora and whanau who define these.
- d. **How many referrals were accepted by these services in the absence of a psychiatric diagnosis? Please provide numbers of referrals for each service.**
As above.
- e. **How many of these referrals were declined? What were the three most common reasons for a referral being declined?**
N/A

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive