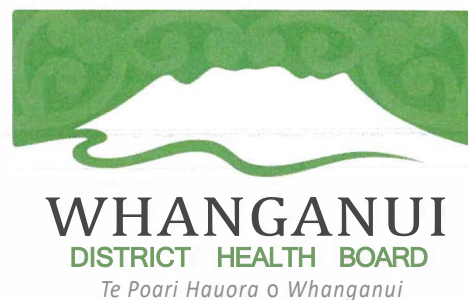


1 February 2021

Hannah Martin  
Stuff

**Via email:** [Hannah.martin@stuff.co.nz](mailto:Hannah.martin@stuff.co.nz)



Dear Hannah

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

### **Official Information Act Request - OIA 13304 Methadone Dispensings**

On 8 January 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

- Methadone dispensings by calendar year, for the years of 2020/ 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
- The longest consecutive period of time a person has been dispensed methadone through the DHB (if known by patient NHI) as of 2020

### **Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

- **Methadone dispensings by calendar year, for the years of 2020/ 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016**

The OIA requested data from 2016-2020. The data extracted from Clinisafe/Eclair is dispensed data only available from September 2017 (which is when most pharmacies were using it.) Data for dispensing's for 2016 and 2017 will need to be found from PHARMS data.

The data shows pharmacy dispensing's. This could be a single dose, or it could be multiple doses e.g. one x consumer on premises and one take away, it is not possible to ascertain, with the data available.

The data shows the following number of dispensing's for Methadone solution (multiple strengths 2mg/ml, 5mg/ml and 10mg/ml) from pharmacies in the Whanganui region.

The data excludes inpatients at Whanganui Hospital, Patea and Waverley Pharmacies (South Taranaki region)

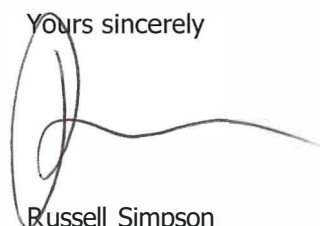
2018	10011 dispensing's
2019	9704 dispensing's
2020	10930 dispensing's

- **The longest consecutive period of time a person has been dispensed methadone through the DHB (if known by patient NHI) as of 2020**

Most of the consumers will remain on the programme with a minority (below five percent) completing the treatment programme per year.

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

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**

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