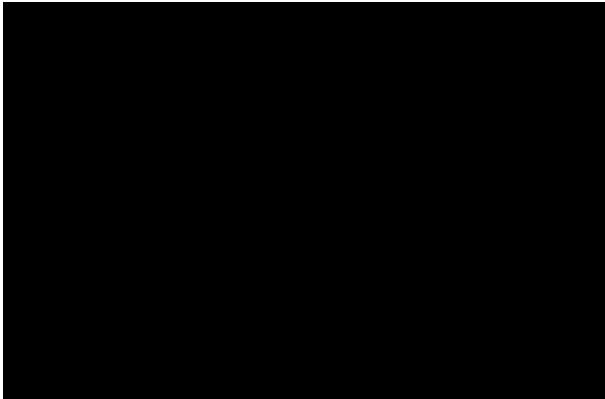


18 August 2020



**Re Official Information Request – Māori mental health services and psychologist workforce data**

I refer to your official information request dated 5 August 2020 requesting the following information:

**1. How many Māori are referred to DHB MHAS services in the past year;**

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, 1891 Māori service users (unique individuals) were referred to Auckland DHB community mental health services. These individuals accounted for 3609 referrals, that is, some individuals were referred on more than one occasion during this time.

**2. What is the average length of engagement;**

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, Māori service users discharged from Auckland DHB community mental health services had an average length of engagement of 114 days.

**3. What diagnoses do these people present with;**

The breakdown of diagnoses for these discharges is as follows:

Diagnostic Group	Count
No Diagnosis/ diagnosis deferred	2956
Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	170
Alcohol & Drug Related Disorders	97
Depressive Disorders	90

Anxiety Disorders	82
Adjustment Disorders	64
Other	47
ADHD	44
Bipolar Disorders	42
Childhood Disorders	36
Personality Disorders	35
Dementia	33
Schizoaffective Disorder	22
Eating Disorders	16
Delusional Disorders	10
Delirium	10

**4. How many Māori are engaged in MHAS psychology services;**

Based on cases currently open to Auckland DHB community mental health services, 91 Māori service users have had one or more face to face contacts with a psychologist over the last 4 weeks. We have used this period to identify current or active engagement rather than historical contact. A further 10 Māori service users in Auckland DHB inpatient units had engagement with a psychologist during the last 4 weeks.

**5. How many Maori have requested psychological input, but declined;**

We are unable to assist with this request as information requested does not exist – s18(e) OIA.

**6. How many Māori are on psychology waitlists;**

Māori access psychologists throughout the continuum of mental health services, including inpatient and community. The adult community mental health centres are the only service area that runs a waiting list for psychology input, and so only this information is presented. Currently, there are 6 Māori service users on the psychology waiting list at adult community mental health centres.

**7. What is the average waiting time for Māori on these psychology waitlists;**

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, Māori service users who moved from the adult community mental health centres psychology waitlist to engage with a psychologist at one of these centres waited on average 158 days.

**8. How many Māori psychologists are employed by the DHBs;**

At as 31 July 2020, 10 Psychologists employed by Auckland DHB identify themselves as Māori.

**9. How many Māori psychologists are employed in a leadership capacity? For example, team leader or above;**

There are two psychologists who identify themselves as Māori who are employed in a leadership capacity.

**10. How many intern psychologist places do the DHB have;**

Auckland DHB provides internships for psychologists in their final year of training from primarily the Health Psychology programme at Auckland University, and from one of the Clinical Psychology training programmes. There is no set number of intern “places”, and so the number of psychology interns changes from year to year in line with the changing number of available interns, together with the number of intern positions available each year. Health Workforce New Zealand part funds either one or two psychology intern roles each year. Otherwise, generally internships are funded by the service which hosts the intern.

For 2020, Auckland DHB had 6 psychology interns for their internship year, though one withdrew partway through the year. At the time of responding to this OIA there are a further two psychologists who are operating within the intern scope of practice because while they have completed their internship year, they have not had their doctoral theses marked and so have not completed their DCLinPsych programme.

**11. What is the supervision regime for the intern psychologists;**

Each intern is overseen and supported by a supervisor in their placement, with whom the intern would meet formally on usually a weekly basis. Further oversight and support from other senior team members will be available, with different specifics depending on the team and service. The interns, as employees, are also supported by Practice Supervisors for Psychology in their services.

The intern supervisors are in contact with the relevant university training programme. The university also provides a Liaison person who visits when interns are in our services. The interns also attend one full day of teaching at the university per week during team time.

**12. What is the average length of service of psychologists within the DHB;**

6.3 years

**13. How many Psychologists have left the DHB over the last twelve months, what was the reason given for leaving;**

Between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020, 16 psychologists ended their employment at Auckland DHB. Reasons for leaving are:

Termination Reason	Count of positions
ANOTHER JOB IN PUBLIC HEALTH	4
FAMILY REASONS	1
ILL HEALTH	2
JOB IN PRIVATE HEALTH	2
LEFT DISTRICT	2
RETIRE	2
TO FURTHER EDUCATION	1
TO GO OVERSEAS	2

**14. How many psychologists are on work visa's;**

As at 31 July 2020, there were 12 positions filled by Psychologists at Auckland DHB who are on work visas.

**15. How many vacancies for psychologists does the DHB have;**

Some vacancies are advertised specifically for a psychologist, while there are other more generic roles which a psychologist could apply for, along with one or more other professional groups. Currently there are 6 role vacancies specifically for a psychologist only, amounting to 4.4 FTE.

**16. How long have the vacancy's for psychologists been open;**

On average, the positions have been open for 56.3 days as at 31 July 2020.

**17. What current initiatives are in place to provide education inhouse to Psychologists;**

A range of in-house education and training exists for psychologists at Auckland DHB, some of which are specifically for psychologists while others are for a range of professions including psychologists.

This education includes but is not limited to:

1. Regular professional supervision
2. Health psychology seminar series
3. A number of internal training courses on supervision
4. A wide variety of interest groups including e.g. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy; EMDR; Family Therapy; first episode psychosis; Intellectual Disability; Oncology
5. Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction training
6. 6 weekly psychology forums
7. A planned two day "Learning from Each Other" mini conference has been postponed for 2020 due to Covid-19

**18. What plan is in place to expand FTE for the psychological services;**

Psychologists are employed in all areas of the DHB, including both mental and physical health services. There are currently no overarching plans to increase FTE for psychological services. However, within physical health, individual services identify the need for psychology services and seek funding to enable this. Within mental health services there are plans to make psychology services more accessible to the adult community mental health services by moving psychology “closer to the front door” by screening service users earlier in their journey.

**19. Are there any psychologists at the DHB employed in the Emergency department;**

Liaison Psychiatry and the Consult Liaison Team are the mental health teams which primarily provide services into the Emergency Departments of Auckland City Hospital and Starship Children’s Hospital respectively. Both of these teams employ psychologists.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive

