

13 February 2023

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Official information request HNZ00009383

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 8 January 2023 for information relating to young people waiting for mental health assessments, specifically:

Please note that answers have been provided for the Tauranga Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service as this was the reference in the first question. Unless otherwise stated answers exclude data for the service based in Whakatāne and data relating to the Maternal Mental Health Service.

- 1. How many young people are waiting for mental health assessments through the Tauranga Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as of January 9? How does this figure compare to the same time from 2021-2016 - broken down by year.**

The number of young people that have not yet had a face-to-face appointment after initial triage as at 1 January each year since 2016 are in Table 1.

Table 1 – Young People Who Have Not Yet Had a Face-to-face Appointment with the Tauranga Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

| Waiting as at Date | Number of young people referred who have not yet been seen face-to-face |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1/01/2016 | 24 |
| 1/01/2017 | 40 |
| 1/01/2018 | 24 |
| 1/01/2019 | 38 |
| 1/01/2020 | 36 |
| 1/01/2021 | 67 |
| 1/01/2022 | 86 |
| 1/01/2023 | * |

*We are declining this part of the question, pursuant to clause 18(f) of the Official Information Act. Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty is declining release of this information on the grounds that to provide the information would require substantial collation or research. To provide an accurate figure for this part of the question would require an analysis of each individual patient's file as current data does not only include those waiting for assessments.

2. How many people were referred to the service in 2022? How does this compare with figures from 2021 to 2016 – broken down by year.

The number of people referred to the Tauranga Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service per year from 2016 to 2022 are in Table 2.

Table 2 – The Number of Young People Referred per Year to Tauranga Maternal Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

| Referral Year | Patient Count |
|---------------|---------------|
| 2016 | 1,181 |
| 2017 | 1,207 |
| 2018 | 1,282 |
| 2019 | 1,222 |
| 2020 | 1,318 |
| 2021 | 1,321 |
| 2022 | 1,195 |

Please note: There may be more than one referral per person to the service – this table shows the number of distinct people.

3. How many psychologists work for MICAMHS? How many psychiatrists work for MICAMHS?

Eleven psychologists and five psychiatrists work for MICAMHS. Please note that not all are full time and psychiatrists also cover the team in Whakatāne.

4. Is this a sufficient number of psychologists and psychiatrists to meet the demand right now? Exactly how many psychologists and psychiatrists are needed to meet the level of demand?

5. Do any vacancies exist, and if so, how many, and how long have the positions been vacant?

There are currently two vacant positions for psychologists. These positions have both been vacant less than 3 months. There are no current psychiatry vacancies.

6. What is the average wait time for young people before they are seen?

The average wait time to be seen face-to-face for people referred in 2022 was 38 days.

7. What is the longest amount of time an individual has had to wait for an appointment over the past year? What is the shortest wait time recorded over the past year?

The longest time between referral and being seen face-to-face for people referred in 2022 was 288 days, the shortest was 0 days.

8. Can you please list the most 10 common types of reasons young people are being referred to the services? What mental health issues are they facing?

The ten most common reasons for referral recorded in the electronic patient management system were:

- Anxiety Issues
- ADD/ADHD
- Behavioural Issues
- Medication Review
- Suicidal Thought Processes
- Low Mood
- Eating Disorder
- Autistic Spectrum
- Deliberate Self Harm
- Depression

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Debbie Brown
Senior Advisor Governance and Quality
Bay of Plenty District