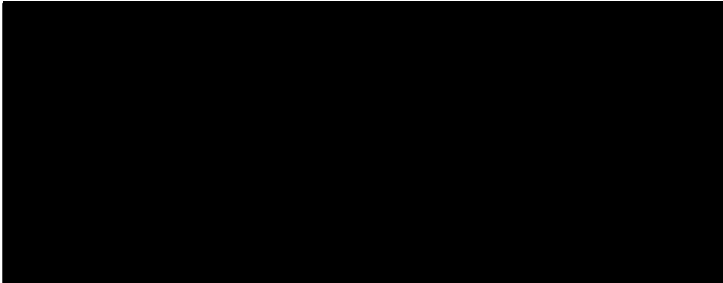


19 March 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Auckland Residents Mental Health Service

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 March 2021, requesting the following information:

I am writing to request under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:

- 1. Average waiting time for initial consultation once a client is referred by a GP to ADHB for a psychiatrist for dealing with some chronic disorders such as depression and anxiety.**
You subsequently clarified that you wanted to include both adults and minors. You also clarified that you wanted the average waiting time to see a psychiatrist and also the average wait time to be seen by other mental health professionals

Please note that some service users of mental health services may see a psychiatrist as the first mental health professional they see, others may see another mental health professional first and subsequently see a psychiatrist. There is also a group of service users who will never directly see a psychiatrist.

The data below is based on referrals to Auckland DHB community mental health services from General Practitioners during the 2020 calendar year. Because of the issues with Covid 19 and “lockdowns” during this period, contacts by zoom have been included as well as face to face appointments. Not all referrals result in a face to face or zoom appointment, so data below is based on those referrals which do go on to such appointments with a mental health professional.

Classification into age groups is based on age at the time of referral.

Average wait time in days between date of referral and 1st face-to-face or "Zoom" appointment with a psychiatrist:

Age Group	Average Wait time (days)
Under 20 years	84
20-64 years	23
65 years & Older	24
All Ages	31

Average wait time in days between date of referral and 1st face-to-face or "Zoom" appointment with any mental health clinician other than a psychiatrist:

Age Group	Average Wait time (days)
Under 20 years	48
20-64 years	10
65 years & Older	25
All Ages	21

2. Average waiting time for any subsequent consultation/visit with a psychiatrist

Please note that not all service users who had an initial meeting with a psychiatrist would have a subsequent meeting with a psychiatrist.

Average wait time in days between date of 1st face-to-face or "Zoom" appointment with psychiatrist and any subsequent face-to-face or "Zoom" appointment with a psychiatrist

Age Group	Average Wait time (days)
Under 20 years	39
20-64 years	44
65 years & Older	49
All Ages	45

3. The percentage of the population (or known patient number) under ADHB's jurisdiction that is deemed as with chronic mental health issues, therefore current receiving ongoing treatment (such as medication and consultation). If possible, I would be grateful if the figures could be classified into different mental

We are unable to report on "chronic mental health issues" and so the data below is based on diagnostic groupings of all open referrals to any Auckland DHB mental health service as at 31/3/21. Referrals have been limited to those with an address within Auckland DHB boundaries. Data counts below are of individuals and not referrals (one individual may have more than one open referral).

Please also be aware that referrals reported below will be at various stages, from triage through to assessment and treatment. Some may be in the process of being discharged.

Diagnoses have been grouped using Ministry of Health groupings. The category of “Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I or II” indicates that no diagnosis has been formally made at this time. The category “No diagnosis available” indicates that no diagnostic information has been entered for that referral.

Count of Auckland DHB residents with one or more referrals open to any Auckland DHB mental health service

Diagnostic Groups	Under 20 years	20-64 years	65 years & Older	All Ages
Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	6	499	73	578
Depression	23	160	80	263
Bipolar Disorders	3	136	48	187
Anxiety Disorders	55	108	16	179
Dementia & Other Cognitive Disorders		24	123	147
Schizoaffective Disorder		106	21	127
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	116	3	1	120
Eating Disorders	22	42		64
Adjustment Disorders	4	42	10	56
Delusional Disorders		20	12	32
Personality Disorders	2	28	2	32
Autism	19	3		22
Other Mood Disorders	2	9	7	18
Alcohol & Drug Disorders		9	7	16
Dissociative Disorders		7		7
Delirium			5	5
Other	31	10	1	42
Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I or II	75	134	10	219
No diagnosis available	787	1570	306	2663
Total	1145	2910	722	4777

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 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 of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)

