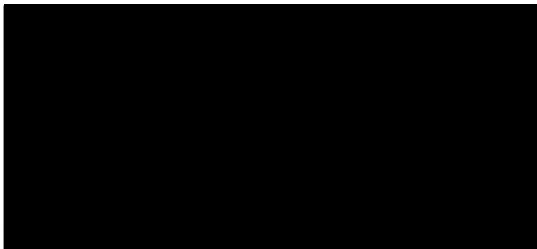


05 February 2019



Re **Official Information Request for FASD assessments and waitlists**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 28 November 2018 for the following information:

- 1. Is your DHB able to provide an FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?***
- 2. If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment? (How many people and how long is the wait).***

The information we have released to you is enclosed below

- 1. Is your DHB able to provide an FASD assessment to determine if a person has this disorder?***

FASD, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, is a neurodevelopmental disorder in children and adults associated with drinking alcohol during pregnancy. According to Ministry of Health information approximately 1 in 100 children have FASD (see <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/disabilities/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-fasd>)

With regard to child and adolescent Mental Health Services, referrals specifically for assessment of FASD are not accepted, though an assessment for FASD, and diagnosis of this condition, may be made as part of clarifying a wider neurodevelopmental/ mental health question where there are significant behavioural and/or learning issues.

- 2. If yes, what is the waitlist for this assessment? (How many people and how long is the wait).***

As above, there is no specific referral pathway for FASD within mental health services, therefore we have no information on waitlists.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled under the official Information Act section 28(3) to seek a review of this response. 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