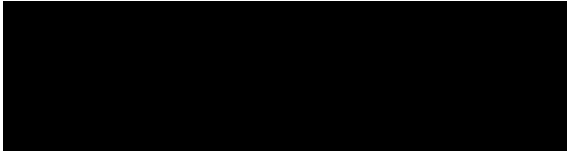


19 April 2022



Re: Official Information Act request – Eating Disorder Treatment - ADHB Ref: 20220223-1162

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 25 January 2022 and clarified on 1 March requesting the following information:

- 1. How many eating disorders beds are there in the ADHB catchment area? How many beds have there been between 2015 and 2021, broken down by year?**
- 2. How many people have received eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year? Can this also be broken down by sex?**
- 3. How many people have been denied eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year? Can this also be broken down by sex?**
- 4. What has been the main reason eating disorder treatment has been denied?**
- 5. How many people have been on the waitlist for eating disorder treatment, in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year?**
- 6. What has been the wait time for eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year?**
- 7. How many people are currently on the waiting list for eating disorder treatment, in the ADHB catchment area?**

Response

We have provided the information you have requested under each of the following headings:

1. How many eating disorders beds are there in the ADHB catchment area? How many beds have there been between 2015 and 2021, broken down by year?

Auckland DHB runs the residential eating disorder unit which consists of 9 beds. This is located in the community in Auckland central. These beds are available to whaiora (service users) who come from the Northern Region DHBs, and all of the Midland Region DHBs (excluding Tairāwhiti). Auckland DHB took over the management of the regional eating disorder residential unit in 2015. Previously these beds had been managed by an NGO. Since Auckland DHB took over the management of these beds, there have been 9 beds, with no change over time.

There are four specialist inpatient eating disorder beds within Starship Childrens Hospital's General Paediatric ward. This number has remained constant over each year between 2015 to 2021.

2. How many people have received eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year? Can this also be broken down by sex?

Tupu Ora (regional eating disorder service) is a Metro Auckland regional service, as well as providing consultation and liaison to the Midland DHB region (excluding Tairāwhiti). We have clarified with you that when you say “ADHB catchment”, that you in fact mean the whaiora population covered by the Tupu Ora service, which, as above, is wider than just the Auckland DHB catchment area.

We have defined treatment to mean either an overnight stay in the Tupu Ora Residential Unit, or beginning at the first face to face (including zoom) appointment with the identified patient or family or both.

The data below is a count of distinct individuals within each year. If an individual has had more than one episode of care within a calendar year they will only be counted once.

	Calendar Years				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	360	416	415	477	486
Female	340	388	379	431	440
Male	19	27	35	44	44
Gender Diverse	0	1	1	0	0
Unspecified	1	0	0	2	2

The following data is the number of people admitted to the Starship Children’s Hospital Inpatient Eating Disorder Service. This data includes readmissions:

	Calendar Years				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	100	100	100	99	101
Female	95	92	88	92	87
Male	5	6	6	7	12
Transgender and Non-Binary	0	2	6	1	2

3. How many people have been denied eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year? Can this also be broken down by sex?

Starship's Inpatient Eating Disorder Service acutely admits medically unstable patients who are referred from the Regional Eating Disorders Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS teams) or GPs, or from the Children's Emergency Department. All children with eating disorders who are medically unstable and require admission to hospital are admitted.

You have clarified that by “denied eating disorder treatment” you mean those referred individuals who did not meet the criteria for acceptance into the service.

Tupu Ora is unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of four years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

However please see the data below, which is a count of those who have been referred but did not receive treatment or a requested consultation/liaison. This group includes those who did not meet criteria for acceptance into the service, and also includes those who chose not to proceed with the referral, and also those who were offered an appointment and did not attend.

Please note that this data is a count of referrals as opposed to distinct individuals, and the calendar year is the year in which the referral was closed.

		Referrals Closed by Calendar Years				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	Number of referrals Closed during the year	248	269	239	268	330
	Number of referrals Classified as "Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	47	55	37	29	55
	% of Total Referrals Closed Classified as ""Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	19.0 %	20.4 %	15.5 %	10.8 %	16.7 %
Male	Number of referrals Closed during the year	12	15	16	23	29
	Number of referrals Classified as "Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	1	2	1	2	6
	% of Total Referrals Closed Classified as ""Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	8.3%	13.3 %	6.3%	8.7%	20.7 %
Gender Diverse	Number of referrals Closed during the year			1		
	Number of referrals Classified as "Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"			0		
	% of Total Referrals Closed Classified as ""Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"			0.0%		
Unspecified	Number of referrals Closed during the year		3		2	2
	Number of referrals Classified as "Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"		2		1	0
	% of Total Referrals Closed Classified as ""Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"		66.7 %		50.0 %	0.0%
All Genders	Number of referrals Closed during the year	260	287	256	293	361
	Number of referrals Classified as "Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	48	59	38	32	61
	% of Total Referrals Closed Classified as ""Did not receive treatment or consultation/liaison support"	18.5 %	20.6 %	14.8 %	10.9 %	16.9 %

4. What has been the main reason eating disorder treatment has been denied?

For Starship Inpatient Eating Disorder service, see response above at question 3.

Tupu Ora is unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of four years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

5. How many people have been on the waitlist for eating disorder treatment, in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year?

Starship's Inpatient Eating Disorder Service acutely admits medically unstable patients who are referred from the Regional Eating Disorders Service, CAMHS teams or GPs, or from the Children's Emergency Department. All children with eating disorders who are medically unstable and require admission to hospital are admitted. There is no waiting list for this acute service.

With regards to community eating disorder treatment by Tupu Ora, waiting list has been in use since mid-2020. Prior to this, referrals were allocated when received. Given the nature of a waiting list, which is dynamic with referrals being added and coming off the list, it is not possible to give a retrospective breakdown of the waiting list over the almost two years that the waiting list has been in place.

We are unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of four years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

6. What has been the wait time for eating disorder treatment in the ADHB catchment area in the last 5 years? Broken down by year?

For Starship Inpatient Eating Disorder service, see response above at question 5.

For the Tupu Ora service we have defined “the wait time for eating disorder treatment” as being the time between referral and the first face to face (including zoom) appointment, calculated in days. While we didn’t operate a wait list during 2017, 2018, 2019 and the first part of 2020, there was, at times, a wait between the referral being received and the whaiora (service-user) being seen in their first appointment. Data below includes those referrals referred within the calendar year which had at least one subsequent face to face (including zoom) appointment. Please note that wait time can be influenced by service capacity and also by whaiora requests or rescheduling due to not attended appointments.

		Referrals Received by Calendar Years				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	Referrals seen F2F or by Zoom at least once	215	220	208	279	192
	Average Duration (Days) between Referral Date & 1st face to face/Zoom appointment	43.2	38.3	44.5	57.9	61.7
Male	Referrals seen F2F or by Zoom at least once	14	17	21	28	18
	Average Duration (Days) between Referral Date & 1st face to face/Zoom appointment	40.6	43.5	28.1	48.6	54.9
Gender Diverse	Referrals seen F2F or by Zoom at least once	1	0	0	0	0
	Average Duration (Days) between Referral Date & 1st face to face/Zoom appointment	208.0				

Unspecified	Referrals seen F2F or by Zoom at least once	1	0	0	2	1
	Average Duration (Days) between Referral Date & 1st face to face/Zoom appointment	38.0			92.5	60.0
All Genders	Referrals seen F2F or by Zoom at least once	231	237	229	309	211
	Average Duration (Days) between Referral Date & 1st face to face/Zoom appointment	43.8	38.6	43.0	57.3	61.1

7. How many people are currently on the waiting list for eating disorder treatment, in the ADHB catchment area?

For Starship Inpatient Eating Disorder service, see response above at question 5.

With regard to Tupu Ora treatment, as of 16 March 2022 there were 16 young people on the waiting list to be seen by the child and adolescent eating disorder sub-team. As of 16 March 2022, there were 65 adults on the waiting list to be seen by the adult eating disorder sub-team, with a further 17 referrals currently engaged with other mental health teams waiting for consultation and liaison from the eating disorder team.

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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive