

26 November 2021



### **Response to a request for official information**



Thank you for your request for official information received 13 September 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH), followed by the necessary extension of time 17 October 2021 and notice of decision 9 November 2021, where you seek the following information:

**1. How many people are on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?**

Response:

We currently have one Nelson Marlborough adolescent waiting for a specialist youth inpatient bed in Christchurch. There is a focus on strengthening mental health community services for clients who require support until a hospital bed is available.

NMH has limited provision for youth mental health inpatient services in our hospital setting. NMH is part of the South Island regional specialist inpatient service for children and youth based in Christchurch (Child & Family Service, Youth Speciality Service, and Eating Disorders Service).

**2. How many people are on the waitlist for outpatient youth mental health services?**

Response:

There are 163 adolescents (aged 13 – 17 years) on the waitlist for mental health community services.

**3. How many people are on the waitlist for inpatient adult mental health services?**

Response:

People who require inpatient admission are assessed to determine the level of care required and a plan of care is made accordingly, including support from other mental health teams, where appropriate.

We do not electronically capture waitlist information for adult mental health inpatient services and, as such, decline a response under section 18(g) *'the information requested is not held'*. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to go through individual patient files as specified at section 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

**4. How many people are on the waitlist for outpatient adult mental health services?**

Response:

Demand for mental health community services is managed on an acuity (severity of illness) and risk (to self or others) basis.

People triaged for Psychiatry are sent an initial appointment so as to be seen within 1 – 3 months.

There are currently 100 adults on the Psychology waitlist.

- 5. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for inpatient youth mental health services?**
- 6. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for outpatient youth mental health services?**
- 7. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for inpatient adult mental health services?**
- 8. How many people have died of suicide, or are believed to have died of suicide, in the last 10 years while on the waitlist for outpatient adult mental health services?**

Response:

NMH does not collect suicide/suspected suicide data; this information is held by the Coronial Services Unit, Ministry of Justice and annual suicide statistics are published at the following link-  
<https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/suicide/annual-suicide-statistics-since-2011/>

As such, NMH declines a response under section 18(d) of the Act in *'that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available'*.

The Ministry of Health recently published a new Suicide web tool presenting data on confirmed suicides reported by the Ministry, as well as data on suspected intentionally self-inflicted deaths reported by the Chief Coroner [Suicide web tool | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator [OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz)

I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**