

Gregory Soar

By email: fyi-request-13982-d7a7adb0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202007787

Dear Mr Soar

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 13 October 2020 for the following information:

1. *"What is the full role of the new Health Improvement Practitioners? (HIP)*
2. *What are the work contact details including name and position of the person who oversees / co-ordinates HIP's (I was told Angela but cannot recall surname.)"*

Health Improvement Practitioners (HIPs) are mental health clinicians, regulated under the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act 2003, who have received additional training in the HIP role. They come from a variety of backgrounds including nursing, social work, occupational therapy, psychology and psychotherapy.

HIPs are employed to work in general practices in order to increase access to, and choice of, services for people experiencing mild-moderate distress. Their services are available to anyone whose thoughts, feelings or actions are impacting on their health and wellbeing. HIPs work with individuals (of all ages), whanau and groups to provide rapid, free evidence based brief interventions to help people make changes that enhance their health and wellbeing. HIPs are part of the new Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction Services that are being rolled out across New Zealand as part of the Budget 19 investment in mental health and addiction services. This is a five-year programme with services rolled out in a phased way over this time.

In order to meet the needs of people experiencing mental health and/or alcohol and other drug (AOD) concerns HIPs have a key role in building the confidence and capability of the other staff in their teams. They work with the general practice team to build routine pathways for high impact problems commonly experienced by people in that practice.

More information regarding Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction Services including information about the role of the HIP can be found at:

<https://www.tepou.co.nz/initiatives/primary-mental-health/125>.

There is no one person nationally who oversees/co-ordinates all the HIPs at participating general practices as the Ministry contracts with individual District Health Boards for the Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction Services (IPMHA). Each DHB area has a steering or governance group that oversees the roll out of these new services. Therefore, I am unable to provide the "contact details" for an individual under section 18(g) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the Ministry or another agency subject to the Act. The

Ministry contracts with individual district health boards for the Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction Services (IPMHA).

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toni Gutschlag', is positioned above the typed name.

Toni Gutschlag
Acting Deputy Director-General
Mental Health and Addictiion