

OIA REQUEST

Received: 11 March 2021
Due: 12 April 2021
Response Date: 07 April 2021
Subject: Vulnerable Persons List

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I request all information on what services were put in place to risk assess the Vulnerable Persons List. This template is on the CASA website.

Vulnerable people are what the Waikato DHB, and some members of community boards the police feel that suicide is imminent due to a family member having committed suicide recently or a close friend, or a cluster of suicides in a contained area.

The suggestion that varied services observe these elected 'Vulnerable Persons'. Without contact and without knowledge of such a list.

Casa also goes on to pinpoint specific data that is maintained for some 10years and is to be shared with relevant authorities.

I have already request privately all the information regarding myself and my family members who were told by a slightly honest representative for the crown that my eldest son and myself have been on this list since 2019. To no avail. Nothing has been forthcoming at all.

Casa states that certain managers of each DHB hold the list as well as themselves, and the relevant services have access to this database.

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our responses in red below:

1. What the cost of maintaining this list is for each DHB?
The cost of maintaining this list cannot be determined as this function forms part of the role of the DHB Suicide Prevention Postvention Coordinator and the roles of those members of the postvention interagency working group.
2. What are the observers having to observe and where is the critical point that would be addressed by making contact with a listee in order to assist.
The list is used to identify those potentially most vulnerable in the aftermath of a suspected suicide so as to ensure that they receive appropriate support and as such, hopefully reduce any further suicidal loss.

BOPDHB has only used a Vulnerable Persons Register (VPR) on three occasions in the last 4+ years. All instances were in response to suspected youth suicides under the age of 16, whereby they were school students with multiple young persons associated to them.



3. I would like to know how many people are on this list, either:
 - (a) With knowledge and consent; or
 - (b) Completely unaware.

The number of young persons on these VPR lists when active varies between 20-40 individuals. Given the young age of these people parents/caregivers were informed by the schools involved. Students were not directly notified to reduce any anxiety, stigmatisation.

4. How and who collates the data collected.

The BOPDHB suicide prevention coordinator maintains the list in conjunction with the members of the postvention interagency working group.
5. How many persons have committed suicide whilst either:
 - (a) Being on the list.

To date there have been no further deaths by suspected suicide of youth that have been on VPR lists created as part of a postvention response in the BOPDHB region. This evidence would support the rationale for utilising such, as previously mentioned.
 - (b) Having family members on this list for extended period with no contact.

There were no family/whānau members on these VPR lists, such individuals are usually under the Victim Support Service who are contracted by the Ministry of Health to provide postvention follow up in cases of suspected suicide to those aged over 17yrs who have been referred via Police and/or other services.
6. I would like to know who is the administrator and who is responsible for the inadequate and inhumane structure of observing without any contact to the persons being observed, even after a family member may commit suicide.

Refer question 1 and 7.

7. Under what human and legal rights as well as privacy laws does this 'Observing and collating data use or fail to use

The Privacy ACT 2020 and The Health Information Privacy Code 2020.

Access to the electronic VPR List was only made available to members of the interagency postvention working group at scheduled meetings, all of whom had signed a privacy agreement as outlined in CASA's CPRS guidelines [Resources \(casa.org.nz\)](https://www.casa.org.nz). The members of this group were made up of services directly involved in the support of students on the list.

7. What funding is allocated for this VPL and for the varied govt services that are coerced to perform this.

Refer question 1.

- ~~9. Whether ACC is prepared to cover the cost of traumatic loss of life whilst being observed on the list. to cover government subsidised breach of ethics, laws, financial accountability, morality and humanity.~~

10. Have you heard of the Cartwright Enquiry? **Yes.**

Please note that this response may be published on our website as part of our proactive release practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DOB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DEBBIE BROWN

Senior Advisor Governance and Quality