

08 November 2022

C159346

C Lane

fyi-request-20816-b7667d4b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your email of 10 October 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about traumatic brain injuries. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

I would like to request the following information in regards to inmates with diagnosed (unrecovered) Brain Injuries (TBI) with a low-med security classification; that HAS and HASN'T reached their parole eligibility date; that have ACC brain injury cover, including ACC concussion services cover;

All support available to inmates with-in Corrections Facilities and also Serco Facilities.

- What Psychological services are available for such diagnosed inmates?*
- How dose one access such support?*
- How dose one access such support if their case manager is unresponsive? What procedures do they take around case management if unengaged?*
- How dose such inmate request a more suitable case manager?*
- What procedures are taken to keep prisoners with unrecovered brain injuries safe from further damage?*
- What procedures are taken to reduce risk of assaults by other inmates, which can cause further damage?*
- What procedures are taken to allow diagnosed inmates to receive a beneficial diet that supports recovery (which is not available on canteen ordering) (recovery diet supported by Brain Injury Recovery Specialists)?*
- What available residential facility is available for diagnosed inmates to reduce an overwhelming environment such as overcrowded units with 40+ other inmates? (Studies show overcrowding/busyness/overwhelming environments slow down brain development and recovery)*
- What available support is there for diagnosed inmates to support independent routine, to help the brain recover from injury? (Studies show overwhelming environments and no personally created routine or a routine with independent flexibility slows down the recovery pathway for brain injury).*
- What available residential facility is available for diagnosed inmates to support continuous unpredictable fatigue? With-in a safe uninterrupted space? (Studies show*

- unrecovered brain injury consist of constant fatigue/confusion/overwhelm and that with out such safe space in prison there is risk for further damage or recovery delay).*
- Would internal resistance (self-care) with-in prison be more suited and provide a safer space to reside for such diagnosed inmates?*
 - If so what procedure would one take to request relocation to that safer internal residence?*
 - What available brain injury rehabilitative facilities with-in the community are available to inmates described above, not yet eligible for parole, that The Department Of Corrections and Serco can relocate inmates to for treatment?*
 - I would like to request a list of such facilities, including contact details and criteria requirements.*
 - Would Goodwood Rehabilitative Centre be an option?*
 - What procedure would one take to request relocation to such community facility to support their recovery treatment?*
 - I would like also a list of all relevant medical support personal's contact details to accommodate such inmates needs with-in North Island Correction/Serco facilities.*
 - Is there support or staff that can be contacted for urgent support for such diagnosed inmates, when there are concerns of risk to further brain damage in the residing environment?*
 - If so could I please have those contact details.*

Corrections needs to extend the timeframe of our response to your request by 25 working days, pursuant to section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. Therefore, you can expect to receive a response to your request by 13 December 2022. If you no longer require this information please let us know as soon as possible.

Please be advised that should you have any concerns regarding this response you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate our decision to extend the timeframe. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Matt Huddleston
 Manager Ministerial Services
 People and Capability