



3 December 2015

'Miss Black'

Fyi-request-3321-1994e2e8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear 'Miss Black'

Re: Official Information Act request – mental health readmissions

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received via the Ministry of Health on 12 November seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

- *"Information relating to Auckland's four acute mental health units – Waiatarau, Tiaho Mai, Te Whetu Tawera and Taharoto/He Puna Waiora. The information required is pertaining to the number of 'failed' discharges (patients discharged from hospital, then readmitted again within a two-week period) for each of the four hospitals. May I please have a monthly breakdown of these numbers from the period July 2014 to July 2015 or the most resent (sic) data you have available going back a year?"*

Waitemata DHB Mental Health Services Group is the largest in the country by volume of service users. The resident Waitemata DHB population of more than 580,000 is also the largest and fastest-growing of any DHB in New Zealand.

The requested figures have been collated from across Waitemata DHB's two acute adult mental health units - one on the North Shore and one in Waitakere district.

1. He Puna Waiora Unit (North Adult Inpatient Unit)

He Puna Waiora is an acute inpatient unit located within the North Shore Hospital site and provides services for adults 18-65 years. He Puna Waiora primarily takes residents from the North Shore and Rodney area. It can also accommodate referrals from elsewhere in the Waitemata catchment area and, if necessary, the wider Auckland region. It has a total of 35 beds which are split into Intensive Care Unit (nine beds) and Open Ward (26 beds). He Puna Waiora opened in May 2015, replacing the former Taharoto inpatient unit also on the North Shore Hospital site.

2. Waiatarau Unit (West Adult Inpatient Unit)

Waiatarau is an acute adult inpatient unit, located within the Waitakere Hospital site in West Auckland and provides services for adults 18-65 years. It primarily serves the West Auckland population but, as with He Puna Waiora, can accommodate referrals from elsewhere in the Waitemata catchment area and, if necessary, the wider Auckland region. Waiatarau has a total of 32 beds which are split into Intensive Care Unit (eight beds) and Open Ward (24 beds).

In response to your questions, over the full year from July 2014 to June 2015, the following numbers of clients have been readmitted within two weeks of discharge from an acute mental health unit.

Please note that over the year in question, He Puna Waiora and Waiatarau had a combined total of 1213 admissions. Patients are only discharged after careful clinical consideration and when it is considered appropriate for their condition.

While a change in an individual's condition may necessitate readmission, it would be inappropriate to term readmissions of this nature as 'failed discharges' as changes in patients' condition can occur quickly and cannot always be foreseen.

Waitemata DHB operates on the principle of giving patients the best possible support to recover from mental health issues and this process involves allowing an increasing level of independence as patients demonstrate progress through the different stages of their treatment.

Re-admissions within two weeks of discharge from an Acute Mental Health Unit 2014/2015													
Unit	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Total
Taharoto/He Puna Waiora	1	4	4	4	4	6	7	4	3	2	2	2	43
Waiatarau	7	5	4	5	7	6	7	6	5	5	1	4	62
Total	8	9	8	9	11	12	14	10	8	7	3	6	105

I trust this information will satisfy your request.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Brant
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Waitemata District Health Board