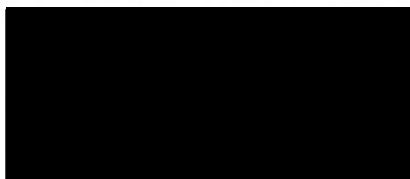


17 December 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act Request – inpatient admissions and facilities

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) regarding people admitted to mental health facilities while under the influence of methamphetamine or synthetic cannabis and the number of seclusion rooms in the units, received 3 December 2018.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding. The Waitemata DHB Mental Health and Addiction Service serves a population of more than 630,000 people and is the largest service in the country by volume of service-users seen. The Waitemata DHB Adult Mental Health Service, which is the largest service, provides community acute and recovery care from three community hubs and the liaison psychiatry team based in North Shore Hospital. The Adult Mental Health Service also provides treatment in two adult acute mental health inpatient units. Waiatarau is a 32-bed unit on the Waitakere Hospital site and He Puna Waiora is a 35-bed unit on the North Shore Hospital site. He Puna Waiora replaced the former Taharoto Unit.

Please see the responses to your questions provided below. We have interpreted your questions as applying to our adult acute mental health inpatient units and have explained where no data is available.

1. The number of patients who have been treated at a mental health facility in the DHB while under the influence of methamphetamine in the past five years?

Table 1: Number of people admitted to Waitemata DHB adult acute mental health inpatient units with a diagnosis code related to methamphetamine between 2013 and 2018

Year	He Puna Waiora / Taharoto Unit	Waiatarau	Total by year
2013	1	3	4
2014	6	7	13
2015	3	5	8
2016	10	11	21
2017	15	11	26
2018 (Jan to November)	4	13	17
Total	39	50	89

Please note that Waitemata DHB makes best use of the available capacity of both adult inpatient units to provide best care to our community. This may mean that patients who live in one part of our district are admitted to an inpatient unit in a different area. Caution is, therefore, advised in interpreting any variance in numbers between our two inpatient units as this is not necessarily an indicator of the prevalence of methamphetamine in the local community.

2. The number of patients who have been treated at a mental health facility in the DHB while under the influence of synthetic cannabis in the past five years?

Waitemata DHB is not able to report on the number of people who have been treated at a mental health facility while under the influence of synthetic cannabis as this is not an identified diagnostic code and not able to be reported from our clinical coding system.

3. How many seclusion rooms are there at mental health facilities in the DHB?

He Puna Waiora and Waatarau both have one seclusion room. Waitemata DHB has been a national leader in reducing the use of seclusion in keeping with modern models of care. Seclusion is used rarely and only as a last resort when managing challenging behaviours that pose a risk to the patient, our staff or other inpatients.

I trust that this information meets your requirements.

Waitemata DHB, 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 this.

I trust this information will satisfy your request.

Yours sincerely



Dr Susanna Galea-Singer
Director
Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services
Waitemata District Health Board