



8 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Marae accessibility for Māori mental health inpatients

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received as a partial transfer from the Ministry of Health on 9 March seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about marae that are accessible to our mental health inpatients.

You requested the following information:

Please confirm how many of the DHBs have a marae accessible to Māori inpatients in DHB psychiatric units.

We contacted you on 9 March to clarify if your request was any marae on DHB sites that would be accessible to Māori mental health inpatients or if your request was for information about marae only accessible within a mental health inpatient unit.

As we did not receive a reply, we contacted you again on 17 March to advise that we were interpreting your request as follows:

Any marae that would accessible to our mental health inpatients – i.e., the marae could be on any of our hospital grounds or sites but not necessarily within a psychiatric unit and still accessible to mental health inpatients.

On 25 March, we received a further partial transfer from the Ministry of Health as follows:

Mental Health Act 1992 – tino rangitiratanga
Please advise in exact terms the measures each of the DHBs use to ensure the tino rangitiratanga of Māori inpatients in psychiatric inpatient units.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

1. Please confirm how many of the DHBs have a marae accessible to Māori inpatients in DHB psychiatric units

Waitematā DHB has two adult inpatient psychiatric units – one on the North Shore Hospital site (He Puna Waiora) and one on the Waitakere Hospital site (Waiatarau).

The DHB also operates the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Inpatient Service (the Mason Clinic) on behalf of the four Northern DHBs (Waitematā, Auckland, Counties Manukau and Northland).

A marae is available on the Waitakere Hospital site, accessible to Māori from both adult inpatient psychiatric units.

Patients receiving care within the Mason Clinic in Point Chevalier have access to a facility on the campus. See below for further details on cultural support available at the Mason Clinic.

2. According to the Mental Health Act 1992 - tino rangitiratanga, please advise in exact terms the measures each of the DHBs use to ensure the tino rangitiratanga of Māori inpatients in psychiatric inpatient units.

The Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act sets out (section 5) that powers provided under the Act shall be exercised with proper respect for cultural identity and personal beliefs.

To assist with this, and to enable the positive wellbeing and participation in treatment planning and review in the inpatient settings, all Māori are able to access cultural support during their inpatient admission.

Māori cultural workers are based within the Waiatarau and He Puna Waiora units. They provide cultural interventions, including holding regular karakia, initiate referrals to other cultural services, participate in whānau meetings and attend assessments with tangata whaiora. They also lead and advise the clinical teams in Tikanga Māori practices.

The Mason Clinic has Memorandum of Understanding with Ngāti Whātua, who are the mana whenua of Tāmaki Makarau. The service also operates two kaupapa Māori inpatient units on the site – Tane Whakapiripiri (opened in 2006) and Te Aka (opened in 2017).

In these units, care is provided through interweaving the fabrics of Tikanga Māori and best forensic clinical care. There is a wharenuī which provides a safe place for tangata whaiora (patients) and a venue where processes, such as hohourongo (conflict resolution), Mauri tau (sensory modulation), wananga, te reo Māori, kapahaka, mahi toi and meetings are facilitated.

All tangata whaiora entering the kaupapa units are admitted via a powhiri process in the wharenuī. Each day starts with karakia, whereby whaiora are encouraged to partake in leading the karakia, himene and mihimihi.

The Mason Clinic also employs 10 taurawhiri (Māori cultural advisors) who work in the kaupapa Māori units, and across all other service areas, including the Forensic Prison and Community Forensic teams.

The taurawhiri who work in the kaupapa Māori units work closely with tangata whaiora and their whānau. They also provide support to staff across the site to develop their cultural capacity and improve bicultural practice.

The service also employs a kaumātua and kuia, who work closely with taurawhiri, staff and management to ensure the service is meeting its Treaty of Waitangi obligations and to ensure that the mana and tino rangatiratanga of all Māori tangata whaiora are valued and respected.

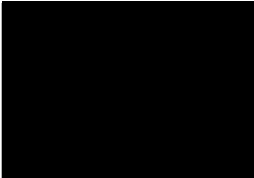
I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Director, Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Services
Waitematā District Health Board**