

26 February 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Addiction services**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request which was partially transferred to us by the Ministry of Health (MoH) on 30 January 2020 seeking information about addiction services available through Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

The MoH will respond to questions 1 and 2 of your request. Waitematā DHB has provided responses to questions 3 to 6 of your request.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context.

Waitematā DHB-operated specialist alcohol and drug services provide care and treatment for people and their families/ whānau across the greater Auckland region. Our alcohol and drug services are provided from multiple locations through our Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS), Te Ātea Marino (Māori kaupapa service) and Tupu (Pasifika people's service). CADS serves a population of more than 1.5 million people from Wellsford to Mercer and is the largest alcohol and drug treatment provider in Australasia. Each year, CADS sees around 15,000 clients with approximately 90,000 face-to-face contacts.

At any given time, approximately 4000-4500 people are engaged with our services. The treatment provided is recovery-focused and reflects biological, psychological, cultural and environmental dimensions.

As well as seeing those with a substance use disorder, our alcohol and drug services also support family and whānau in their own right who are affected by another's use of alcohol and/or other drugs (AOD).

Te Ātea Marino and Tupu provide AOD counselling and groups across the Auckland region. CADS operates a range of comprehensive alcohol and/or other drug services, which are uncapped with regard to the number of people who may be engaged with the service at any time. These services comprise:

- CADS Counselling Service (outpatient AOD services)
- CADS Inpatient Detoxification Unit

- CADS Community and Home Detoxification Service – for people with less severe substance dependencies
- CADS Auckland Opioid Substitution Treatment Service (Specialist and GP programme)
- CADS Dual Diagnosis Service
- CADS Youth Service “Altered High”
- CADS Pregnancy and Parental Service
- CADS Intensive Outpatient Programme.

More than 50% of clients who come to CADS self-refer by attending one of five CADS ‘open door – no appointment’ daily (10am to 1pm) walk-in clinics. There is no need for a referral from a GP, no entry criteria and no cost to the client.

The second highest referral source is from our partners in the justice sector e.g. the police, the courts, prisons or the community probation service. Clients can also contact CADS through a single phone number for the region which is available Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm or via the website [www.cads.org](http://www.cads.org).

GPs can access information and services either through the CADs website, by e-referral or the GP-hotline. CADS also visits schools, marae, churches and receives referrals from other agencies including Oranga Tamariki, maternity services and mental health services.

Waitematā DHB also holds contracts with non-government organisation (NGO) providers who provide residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation beds. All of these beds are currently available through the public health system and, apart from one provider, are available to residents from across the whole Auckland region.

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

**3. How many people were put on a waitlist to access detox and rehab addiction services each year over the past four years (2016 – 2019)**

The only waitlist CADS operates is for the medical inpatient detoxification unit. Prior to being waitlisted, people are assessed for suitability for inpatient medical admission and are followed up while they are awaiting admission.

**Table: Number of people from metro-Auckland waitlisted for the medical inpatient detoxification unit by year from 2016-2019**

Calendar Year	Total number of people waitlisted across the metro-Auckland region
2016	674
2017	639
2018	640
2019	718

NGOs also provide alcohol and drug services across metro-Auckland, however, specific waitlist data is not collected from NGOs in the national reporting system.

4. Can each year please be broken down into months i.e. the number of people each month put on a waitlist?

**Table: Number of new people from metro-Auckland on the waitlist for the medical inpatient detoxification unit by month from 2016-2019**

<b>Year-Month</b>	<b>Number of new people on waitlist across the metro-Auckland region</b>
<b>2016</b>	
Jan	57
Feb	69
Mar	57
Apr	60
May	59
Jun	59
Jul	56
Aug	54
Sep	49
Oct	49
Nov	54
Dec	51
<b>2017</b>	
Jan	50
Feb	41
Mar	54
Apr	42
May	65
Jun	49
Jul	47
Aug	69
Sep	64
Oct	55
Nov	46
Dec	57
<b>2018</b>	
Jan	46
Feb	42
Mar	45
Apr	55
May	60
Jun	51
Jul	52
Aug	67
Sep	56
Oct	54

Year-Month	Number of new people on waitlist across the metro-Auckland region
Nov	53
Dec	59
<b>2019</b>	
Jan	46
Feb	52
Mar	73
Apr	61
May	55
Jun	59
Jul	69
Aug	60
Sep	55
Oct	76
Nov	68
Dec	44

**5. Can the waitlisted people please be broken down into category i.e. what service it was that they were wanting to access, and were subsequently waitlisted for?**

As noted above CADS operates a waitlist for the medical inpatient detoxification unit only.

**6. Can you please categorise these waitlisted people into wait-times. I.e. those who had to wait 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks and so on...**

**Table: Waitlist volumes by time waited (weeks) for admission to inpatient detoxification – metro-Auckland – 2016 to 2019**

	<3 Wks	3 -4 Wks	>4 - 5 Wks	>5 -6 Wks	>6 -7 Wks	>7 -8 Wks	8+ Wks
<b>2016</b>							
Jan	21	10	9	2			
Feb	26	6	8			1	
Mar	22	6	8	4			
Apr	25	2	5	8	4		
May	25	5	7	7	2		
Jun	29	6	4	5		2	
Jul	22	7	9		1		
Aug	19	5	11	7			
Sep	20	8	5	5	3	1	
Oct	25	9	5	1			
Nov	36	6					
Dec	38	1		1			
<b>2017</b>							
Jan	23	11	2	1	2		
Feb	31	5					


	<3 Wks	3 -4 Wks	>4 - 5 Wks	>5 -6 Wks	>6 -7 Wks	>7 -8 Wks	8+ Wks
Mar	40	5					
Apr	32	3					1
May	39	7	2				
Jun	26	15	1				
Jul	34	5	1				
Aug	38	7	1	1			1
Sep	20	18	2		1	1	
Oct	11	12	17	3			
Nov	24	12	11				
Dec	25	10	1	3			
<b>2018</b>							
Jan	19	13	4	3	1	1	
Feb	26	10	2	1			
Mar	26	12	1	1			
Apr	17	16	1	1			
May	18	9	9	1	1		
Jun	19	5	1	8	4		
Jul	23	3	4	4	3	1	
Aug	18	7	4	6	5		1
Sep	19	4	3	6	6		
Oct	24	3	3		4	5	
Nov	23	1	4	5	5	3	
Dec	27	3	3	5	3		
<b>2019</b>							
Jan	14	4	5	10	3	1	
Feb	12	2	4	12	2	1	
Mar	23	6	4	6			
Apr	23	2	3	4	2	1	
May	22		3	1	2	12	3
Jun	23	5				3	4
Jul	17	3	2	7	4	4	1
Aug	15	3	1	1	6	6	4
Sep	17	3	2	2	2	5	8
Oct	20	2	3		1	2	16
Nov	25	8	1	3	3	1	5
Dec	22	7			4	2	8

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek H. Wright', written in a cursive style.

**Derek Wright**  
**Specialist Mental Health & Addiction Services Lead**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**