



Waitematā
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

**Specialist Mental Health and
Addiction Services**

Level 3, 44 Taharoto Road
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna
Auckland 0622

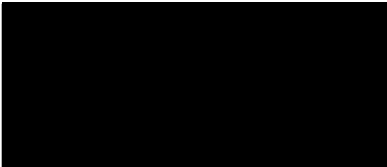
Telephone: (09) 487-1500

Freephone: 0800 80 9342

Facsimile: (09) 487-1333

Visit: www.waitematadhb.govt.nz

12 November 2019



Dear 

Re: OIA request - Forensic staffing

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received by Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) on 17 October 2019, seeking information about staffing in the regional forensic psychiatry service.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist in the interpretation of the information provided.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 people. Our specialist mental health and addiction services (SMH&AS) are the largest of this kind in the country by volume of service-users seen.

The speciality comprises:

- Adult Mental Health Services
- Child Youth and Family Mental Health Services
- Takanga a Fohe (Pacific mental health and addictions)
- Whitiki Maurea (kāupapa Māori mental health and addictions)
- Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service (covering Northland and greater Auckland regions)
- Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS).

All of our addictions services cover the Auckland region. Mental health services for older adults sits within Waitematā DHB's speciality medicine and health of older people division.

As you will know, regional forensic psychiatric services (Mason Clinic) is a secure unit, located in Point Chevalier. The clinic provides integrated forensic mental health services to the Northern Region's courts, prisons and general mental health services.

The service catchment area for general mental health services is from the Bombay Hills to the top of the North Island. For offenders with an intellectual disability, the catchment is from Taupo to the top of the North Island. The team is multi-disciplinary, multi-ethnic and close-knit.

You will note from the following information that the Pohutukawa unit has considerably higher casual staffing levels than others. This is a high-security wing requiring 2:1 patient care and, depending on acuity, 3:1 patient care on occasion.

Additional casual staffing is required to maintain appropriate staffing levels for permanent constant observations. This allows us to cover planned and unplanned staff absences, as well as respond to dynamic factors such as increased acuity, closing areas of a ward due to property damage and seasonal trigger factors.

More generally, we strive to fill our rosters with permanent staff wherever possible and to minimise the use of temporary or casual options.

In response to your specific questions, please refer to the following information – please note the data provided is for the year ended 30 October 2019:

1. Within each roster period over the last 12 months; a. The total number of shifts worked by registered nurses in each inpatient unit in Forensics, and
- b. Within that total number, how many shifts were filled by non-casual registered nurses, and
- c. Within that total number, how many shifts were filled by casual registered nurses.

Q 1 Registered nurses - shifts	Total (a)	Perm (b)	Casual (c)
Rata	4,242	4,043	199
Tanekaha	4,031	3,931	100
Kauri	4,290	4,171	119
Totara	4,129	4,094	35
Kahikatea	4,125	4,065	60
Rimu	2,076	1,904	172
Pohutukawa	5,570	4,985	585
Tane Whakapiripiri	3,666	3,554	112
Forensic Bureau Nurses	301	179	122
Total	32,430	30,926	1,504

2. Within each roster period over the last 12 months; a. The total number of shifts worked by mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants) in each inpatient unit in forensics, and
- b. Within that total number, how many shifts were filled by non-casual mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants), and
- c. Within that total number, how many shifts were filled by casual mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants).

Q 2 Health care assistants - shifts	Total (a)	Perm (b)	Casual (c)
Rata	3,311	2,657	654
Tanekaha	1,976	1,512	464
Kauri	3,119	2,575	544
Totara	2,688	2,324	364
Kahikatea	1,835	1,650	185
Rimu	537	371	166
Pohutukawa	4,882	3,121	1,761
Tane Whakapiripiri	2,780	2,281	499
Forensic Bureau Nurses	37	15	22
Total	21,165	16,506	4,659

3. Within each roster period over the last 12 months; a. What was the volume of overtime and/or extensions by hours worked by registered nurses in each inpatient unit in forensics, and
- b. Within that total volume, how many hours were allocated to non-casual registered nurses, and
- c. Within that total volume, how many hours were allocated to casual registered nurses.

Q 3 Registered nurses – overtime hours	Total (a)	Perm (b)	Casual (c)
Rata	3,821	3,735	86
Tanekaha	2,097	2,052	45
Kauri	4,478	4,419	59
Totara	1,227	1,222	5
Kahikatea	1,074	1,062	12
Rimu	680	635	45
Pohutukawa	9,868	9,350	518
Tane Whakapiripiri	2,487	2,422	65
Forensic Bureau Nurses	18		18
Total	25,750	24,897	853

4. Within each roster period over the last 12 months; a. What was the volume of overtime and/or extensions by hours worked by mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants) in each inpatient unit in Forensics, and
- b. Within that total volume, how many hours were allocated to non-casual mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants), and
- c. Within that total volume, how many hours were allocated to casual mental health care assistants (psychiatric assistants).

Q 4 Health care assistants – overtime hours	Total (a)	Perm (b)	Casual (c)
Rata	3,058	2,323	735
Tanekaha	1,723	1,375	348
Kauri	4,530	3,832	698
Totara	1,299	1,023	275
Kahikatea	629	555	74
Rimu	325	242	84
Pohutukawa	7,361	4,092	3,269

Tane Whakapiripiri	2,064	1,674	389
Forensic Bureau Nurses	55	31	24
Total	21,044	15,147	5,896

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā 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.

Yours sincerely



Dr Murray Patton
Acting Director
Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services
Waitematā District Health Board