



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

**Specialist Mental Health and
Addiction Services**

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Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – partial transfer - Suicide statistics for patients in mental health care for the past five years

Thank you for your Official Information Act request which was partially transferred by the Ministry of Health to Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) on 29 May 2019, requesting information about suicide statistics and psychologist and psychiatrist roles.

Waitematā DHB has been asked to respond to you directly on questions 2a and 5. The balance of your questions will be responded to by the Ministry of Health.

We have endeavoured to show how we have interpreted your questions in our response below.

2a. How many psychologists are in paid employment within the various DHB's inpatient mental health services?

Currently, the DHB has 9.8 budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in inpatient mental health services (including forensic services), with 9.6 FTE currently filled.

5. What psychological services are funded by the Ministry of Health where a psychologist needs a master's level or higher qualification?

Specialist Mental Health and Addictions Services only employ registered clinical psychologists who are required to have doctoral level or masters level qualifications for their registration. With Ministry of Health funding, Waitematā DHB also contracts non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and primary health organisations (PHOs), such as GPs, to employ clinicians to deliver primary mental health services. However, the discipline of the clinician (eg, nurse, psychologist, social worker) is not specified, nor is the level of training. The requirement is that clinical staff must meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA) or Social Workers Registration Act, including the requirement for a current practising certificate as outlined by their registration board.

I trust this information will satisfy your request. 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

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

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