



27 November 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – The number of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 3 November seeking information about the number of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

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

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

Your original request sought the following information:

I am requesting for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) information/statistics that you may have. I am particularly interested in finding:

- 1. Number of reported/diagnosed cases of ADHD by gender, by age (to also include adult category), by ethnicity, by residential area from 2000 to 2019.***
- 2. Number of reported/diagnosed cases of ASD by gender, by age (to also include adult category), by ethnicity, by residential area from 2000 to 2019.***
- 3. Number of ADHD patients by ethnicity and age that are on either medication, behavioral therapy or other therapy from 2000 to 2019.***
- 4. Number of ASD patients by ethnicity and age that are on either medication, behavioral therapy or other therapy from 2000 to 2019.***

Any other reports or information about ASD and ADHD that I can access.

We contacted you on 3 November to advise that we were unable to provide the information requested due to the way patient diagnoses are recorded at Waitematā DHB.

On 5 November, you clarified that you required information on:

The number of children (by age, gender and ethnicity) with ADHD or ASD who have been seen by a Developmental Service Coordinator or by Marinoto Child and Youth Mental Health Services, as

well as prescriptions for medications related. I look forward to receiving any of the information that is practicably accessible for you.

On 10 November, we confirmed that we would be able to provide some information from 2015 to date from both Marinoto and child health services Developmental Coordinators. However, information relating to prescriptions for medications would require the review of individual clinical records.

Due to the sensitivity of the information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual patient files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. Therefore, we have determined to refuse this element of your request, relating to prescriptions for medications under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation or research.

The tables below show the number of children (by age, gender and ethnicity) who have a formal diagnosis of ASD or ADHD recorded in their electronic clinical record. This may not represent the total cohort who may receive a diagnosis of ADHD or ASD as it can take some time before a clinician completes a diagnostic work-up and records a formal diagnosis of ADHD or ASD.

<i>Unique Marinoto and Developmental Co-ordinators between 6 November 2015 and 6 November 2020 with an ASD principal, other or provisional diagnosis</i>																			
Unique clients	Age in years at time of referral																		
Gender, Ethnicity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Female	4	34	26	29	17	11	12	6	13	11	6	13	6	11	8	5	7	1	220
Asian		13	13	9	4	6	2	2	5	2		1	1	1	1	1	3		64
European	2	11	7	9	8	4	5	4	7	8	3	10	4	6	7	3	2	1	101
Māori		5	5	3	2	1	4		1		2	2	1	4		1	2		33
Other		3		4	1		1			1	1								11
Pacific Peoples	2	2	1	4	2														11
Male	23	113	138	113	71	57	55	48	37	41	33	29	19	19	10	13	11	1	831
Asian	6	32	52	22	11	5	9	4	4	4	5	5	4	2	3	1	2		171
European	11	38	45	52	30	38	36	36	23	28	24	18	7	12	5	9	7		419
Māori	3	24	32	18	18	8	7	5	7	6	1	5	8	5	2	3	1		153
Other	2	7	3	5	8	3	2	1	1	1							1		34
Pacific Peoples	1	12	6	16	4	3	1	2	2	2	3	1						1	54
Total	27	147	164	142	88	68	67	54	50	52	39	42	25	30	18	18	18	2	1051

Please note, we unable to include information about the number of children with a diagnosis of ADHD seen by a Developmental Service Coordinator as this service is contracted to primarily support children with a primary diagnosis of ASD.

Children seen by the service can also have a concurrent diagnosis of ADHD, but this information is not practicably available without reviewing documentation recorded in each child's individual clinical record.

As you have requested information that is practicably available, we can provide the following information from Marinoto child and youth mental health service:

Unique child and youth mental health clients between 6 November 2015 and 6 November 2020 with an ADHD-related principal, other or provisional diagnosis																
Unique clients	Age in years at time of referral															
Gender, Ethnicity	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Female	1	8	26	32	19	20	10	9	18	12	27	23	14	14		233
Asian		1	4	1		2	1	1			1			1		12
European		5	14	21	16	10	7	8	16	9	22	19	12	11		170
Māori	1	2	7	8	2	5	2		2	2	4	3	2	1		41
Other					1					1		1		1		4
Pacific Peoples			1	2		3										6
Male	6	58	104	118	106	83	60	82	75	50	48	38	42	30	4	904
Asian	1	7	10	10	7	2	4	4	4	5		2	3	1		60
European	4	34	71	69	64	59	41	56	53	30	34	25	33	27	4	604
Māori	1	16	21	34	29	19	13	20	15	14	14	8	5	2		211
Other				4	3	1	1	2	2	1		2	1			17
Pacific Peoples		1	2	1	3	2	1		1			1				12
Unknown								1								1
Maori								1								1
Total	7	66	130	150	125	103	70	92	93	62	75	61	56	44	4	1138

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions taken in providing this response. Information about how to do so is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust that the information we have being able to provide 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



Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board