



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

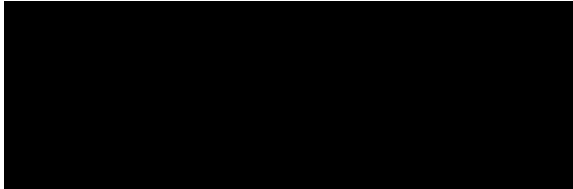
Shakespeare Road, Takapuna

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Auckland 0740

Telephone: 09 489 0527

31 May 2022



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Alcohol-related harm

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 10 May 2022 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board about treatment for alcohol-related harm in our specialist addictions services.

On 29 April, you requested information about alcohol-related harm, which we interpreted as being about people presenting to our hospitals. On 5 May and 10 May, we contacted you clarify if you were also seeking information from our regional addictions and medical detox service (for Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitematā DHBs).

On 10 May, you confirmed that you would like to have this information. As these requests require information from different services, we advised that we would treat the requests for hospital-related data and addictions services-related data as separate requests.

The information regarding hospital-related data has been provided to you in a separate response.

Information provided in this response relates to people specifically accessing treatment for alcohol-related dependency from Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS) provided across metropolitan Auckland (Auckland, Waitematā and Counties Manukau DHB regions) by Waitematā DHB.

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

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

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

Currently, CADS provides a number of community services across metropolitan Auckland and the Medically Managed Withdrawal (MMW) inpatient unit (based in central Auckland).

The MMW unit has 10 inpatient beds and provides medically supervised withdrawal for people who have a physical dependence on alcohol and/or other drugs.

Across all of its services, CADS provides support to approximately 15,000 people per annum.

Where numbers five or fewer, we are withholding the exact number under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need for individual privacy and have concluded that it does not. The general expectation that medical records will be kept confidential means that patients are entitled to rely on the DHB not to create the risk that they will be identified.

The following information covers the period 01 January 2012 to 23 May 2022 (inclusive).

1. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people were treated from 2012-2022 year – to-date (YTD) for alcohol-related causes.

Number of people treated by Community Alcohol Drug Services for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022										
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
4,971	4,741	4,497	4,366	4,429	4,241	4,162	4,282	3,780	3,285	1,046

Please note that the lower numbers in 2020 and 2021 are a result of the effect of COVID-19 restrictions. While CADS continued to operate as an essential service, many settings, including schools, prisons and probation sites were closed or unable to have treatment providers on their sites. Services continued for clients already in treatment with increases in telehealth appointments. However, there was a reduction in new clients presenting.

2. Please provide a yearly breakdown of age groups of those treated in your DHB between 2012-2022 for alcohol-related causes.

Number of people by age group treated by Community Alcohol Drug Services for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022											
Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
0-14 Yrs	55	49	45	41	34	30	20	14	13	8	≤5
15-19 Yrs	597	445	416	360	345	286	222	208	157	103	26
20-24 Yrs	816	804	699	618	616	579	561	533	401	348	69
25-29 Yrs	688	709	689	669	719	717	692	736	602	507	159
30-34 Yrs	569	598	569	605	604	577	606	638	653	496	174
35-39 Yrs	594	496	452	473	507	481	476	517	465	454	163
40-44 Yrs	547	531	517	504	479	413	411	428	385	396	125
45-49 Yrs	436	432	417	390	399	427	408	441	382	327	102
50-54 Yrs	316	341	319	318	305	308	329	322	308	260	98
55-59 Yrs	197	180	197	197	198	198	232	217	194	198	61
60-64 Yrs	79	84	86	91	113	124	104	115	120	105	35
65+ Yrs	75	70	89	100	110	101	101	113	100	83	32

3. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the ethnicity of those treated in your DHB from 2012-2022 for alcohol-related causes.

Number of people by ethnicity treated by Community Alcohol Drug Services for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022											
Ethnicity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Asian	276	264	288	295	301	340	389	420	341	321	117
European	2345	2215	2078	2003	2045	1972	1937	1932	1707	1557	512
Māori	1298	1261	1258	1160	1185	1075	979	1025	933	777	238
Other	117	132	99	122	112	100	99	100	79	71	33
Pacific Peoples	933	867	772	786	786	754	758	805	720	559	146

4. Please provide a yearly breakdown of those admitted to your DHB from 2012-2022 for alcohol-related causes.

Number of people admitted to the MMW unit for alcohol-related harm 2012-2022										
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
450	434	454	446	466	445	437	443	388	487	139

A decline in admissions is noted in 2020. As per the Ministry of Health's guidance, the MMW closed when New Zealand moved into COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown in March 2020. The facility then reopened in June 2020, with reduced capacity, in order to meet the infection prevention control measures for the initial variant.

5. Please provide a yearly breakdown of ethnicity of those admitted to your DHB from 2012-2022 for alcohol-related causes.

The below table is representative of admissions to the MMW unit, previously located in Point Chevalier, but which recently moved to the Auckland CBD (Hobson Street).

Number of admissions by ethnicity within the Community Alcohol Drug Services for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022											
Ethnicity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Asian	17	21	19	19	19	22	25	34	48	50	12
European	381	349	365	368	376	367	371	341	304	352	110
Maori	42	52	54	42	63	44	29	44	31	66	13
Other	≤5	≤5	≤5	8	≤5	≤5	9	9	3	8	≤5
Pacific Peoples	6	9	12	9	≤5	7	≤5	15	≤5	11	≤5

6. Please provide a yearly breakdown of age groups of those admitted to your DHB from 2012-2022 for alcohol-related causes.

Number of people by age group admitted to the MMW unit for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022											
Age group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
15-19 Yrs	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
20-24 Yrs	18	9	8	9	7	7	6	6	8	11	<5
25-29 Yrs	27	30	26	29	26	28	25	29	12	20	<5
30-34 Yrs	31	36	41	39	32	45	38	33	34	38	10
35-39 Yrs	47	56	39	36	56	47	42	53	37	66	23
40-44 Yrs	75	67	70	58	66	63	71	63	56	71	25
45-49 Yrs	83	85	82	83	87	70	65	64	60	68	16
50-54 Yrs	72	63	80	63	62	53	57	75	56	63	20
55-59 Yrs	54	49	52	60	63	57	59	43	49	64	15
60-64 Yrs	24	22	31	43	26	40	34	41	33	57	15
65+ Yrs	18	16	22	26	39	34	37	36	43	29	8

7. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the cost for each person treated/admitted in your DHB for alcohol-related causes.

Annual cost for treated / admitted people by Community Alcohol and Drug Service for alcohol-related dependency 2012-2022	
Year	Actual cost
2012*	-
2013	\$ 13,138,515
2014	\$ 13,375,771
2015	\$ 14,286,451
2016	\$ 14,100,142
2017	\$ 14,150,755
2018	\$ 14,268,286
2019	\$ 14,888,259
2020	\$ 15,529,683
2021	\$ 16,121,005
2022 YTD	\$ 14,202,108

*Please note that cost data is available from 2013 only due to the implementation of a new data warehouse at that time.

8. Please provide a breakdown of how many patients were admitted to Emergency Departments where alcohol was determined to be a factor in their admission from 2012-2022.

All patients with an immediate need are seen through the EDs at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals. As previously noted, this information has been provided in a separate response from the DHB.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

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 seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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**