

18 May 2021

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Dear ██████████

**Re: OIA request - Spending on Asian mental health from 2010 - 2020**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 21 April 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about Asian mental health spending and the number of patients referred to mental health services between 2010 and 2020.

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. We are the largest mental health service provider in the country by volume of service-users seen.

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

Waitematā DHB has a designated Asian Mental Health Service (AMHS), which provides culturally and linguistically appropriate support for service-users across the DHB, as well as the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service (the Mason Clinic). AMHS aims to improve access for Asian communities to mental health services, especially for Asian migrants who may require translation assistance and/or are unfamiliar with the New Zealand health system.

Asian communities in the Waitematā district also access support from our general mental health and addiction services – including those for children and young people and older adults.

**1. Mental health spending for the Asian community by Waitematā DHB for each of the years between 2010-2020**

The following table provides the amount of dedicated funding Waitematā DHB allocates to our AMHS.

**Table 1: Funding allocated by Waitematā DHB to AMHS from 2010 to 2020**

Financial year	Funding allocated
2010/2011	\$540,116.90
2011/2012	\$549,553.90
2012/2013	\$559,225.90
2013/2014	\$569,139.90
2014/2015	\$580,294.10
2015/2016	\$607,864.12
2016/2017	\$623,799.00
2017/2018	\$620,056.00
2018/2019	\$637,673.90
2019/2020	\$666,724.64

Please note that information on the proportion of funding for general mental health services spent across all ethnic groups, including Asian communities, is not collected.

We are, therefore, refusing this aspect of your request under section 18 (g)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested is not held by us and there are no reasonable grounds to believe it is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of, another ministry or agency.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Our Asian population makes up 27% of our total demographic. Like all communities in our district, service-users from the Asian community also benefit from our investment in general mental health services, which is just under \$200 million/year.

## **2. Mental health spending for migrant communities (culturally and linguistically diverse people) of Waitematā DHB for each of the years between 2010-2020**

We have interpreted your question as being for **all** migrant communities within our district, including Asian. Waitematā DHB funds a wide range of mental health services, which are available to all communities in our district, including migrant communities. As highlighted above, information on the proportion of funding that is spent on specific ethnic communities is not collected in relation to general mental health services.

The DHB does not have specifically-funded culturally and linguistically diverse services outside of the Asian Mental Health Service, except for fixed-term mental health community services, which were provided during 2019 and 2020, as follows:

**Table 2: Waitematā DHB community-funded contracts from 2010 to 2020**

Services to support mental health wellbeing	Contract value	Contract term
Improving access and support to culturally appropriate services and/or initiatives for Muslim communities post-March 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks	\$10,000	1 Aug 2019 – 31 Jan 2020
Muslim community support one year post-	\$10,000	1 April 2020 – 31 Dec 2020

anniversary of March 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks		
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In addition, the DHB funds interpreting services for all of our hospital and community-based services, including mental health services. The Waitematā Translation and Interpreting Service (WATIS) provides 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week support.

The service includes more than 200 interpreters to cover more than 90 languages and dialects (including NZ Sign Language, Asian, Pacific, European, Middle Eastern and African languages).

### 3. Total DHB spending on Waitematā DHB mental health services for each of the years between 2010-2020.

The table below details the DHB’s spending by financial year on specialist mental health and addiction services, including those provided to the local Waitematā DHB population as well as regionally, as follows:

Services provided to the local Waitematā DHB population:

- Child and Youth Mental Health Services
- Adult Mental Health Services
- Whītiki Maurea Māori Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Takanga a Fohe Pacific Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Mental Health Services for Older Adults.

Services provided by Waitematā DHB for the Northern Region:

- Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services at Mason Clinic (from the Bombay Hills to the top of the North Island)
- CADS - Community Alcohol and Drug Services (for the metro Auckland DHBs – Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau).

**Table 3: Specialist mental health and addiction expenditure on mental health services delivered by Waitematā DHB from 2010 to 2020**

Financial year	Total expenditure
2010/2011	\$155,982,007
2011/2012	\$153,762,659
2012/2013	\$149,755,611
2013/2014	\$152,209,477
2014/2015	\$131,756,761
2015/2016	\$168,005,841
2016/2017	\$167,128,668
2017/2018	\$179,724,129
2018/2019	\$190,985,526
2019/2020	\$199,938,591

### 4. Ethnic make-up of Waitematā DHB population, breakdown by percentages for each ethnic group

The following table details the ethnic breakdown (by percentages) of the population within our catchment, by year (sourced from Statistics NZ, 2020):

**Table 4: Waitematā DHB population breakdown between 2010-2020**

Year	Ethnicity			
	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Other
2010	9.93%	7.00%	16.45%	66.62%
2011	9.95%	7.04%	16.98%	66.03%
2012	9.98%	7.07%	17.58%	65.36%
2013	9.99%	7.09%	18.19%	64.73%
2014	10.06%	7.12%	18.99%	63.83%
2015	10.13%	7.10%	20.08%	62.69%
2016	10.16%	7.09%	21.31%	61.44%
2017	10.17%	7.08%	22.48%	60.27%
2018	10.16%	7.24%	24.66%	57.95%
2019	10.15%	7.26%	25.77%	56.82%
2020	10.07%	7.23%	27.20%	55.50%

**5. The number of patients that fall under the Asian demographic within Waitematā DHB, referred to Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Services**

Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Services receive referrals from a range of sources including self-referrals, whānau, schools and general practitioners. The table below details the number of referrals received each calendar year for people who identify as being of Asian ethnicity.

Please note that these referrals are to services available to all communities within our district and are distinct from referrals to our AMHS.

**Table 5: Referrals received by Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Services for patients who identify as Asian from 2010-2021**

Year	Referrals received
2010	1,692
2011	1,841
2012	1,895
2013	2,209
2014	2,290
2015	2,769
2016	2,880
2017	3,073
2018	3,269
2019	3,664
2020	3,560

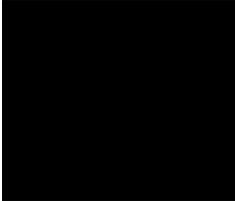
I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

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



**Director, Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**