



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

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5 October 2018

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### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9207**

We refer to your email dated 4 September 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding the Child/youth mental health service and not child services generally. Specifically:

**1. How many referrals were made to the Child and Youth/Adolescent Mental Health Service for the calendar year of 2016, 17 and year-to-date to September 1, 2018?**

- 2016 - 504 Referrals,
- 2017 - 642 Referrals,
- 2018 until 1<sup>st</sup> September - 329 Referrals

**2. How many children/young people were on the waiting list as of September 1 2018 - broken down by age range?**

As at 1 September 2018 there were 50 children on the waiting list. We are declining to provide a breakdown by age range under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. we would need to search each individual client file manually and this would require substantial time, collation or research.

**3. The longest time a child/young person was on the waiting list as of September 1 2018?**

The longest wait time was 187 days.

**Please note** that often long wait times are related to those who may prove difficult to engage and where making contact and receiving responses proves problematic and lengthy. The service will keep referrals open until they manage to identify that no safety or risk concerns exist.

**4. The average wait time for a child/young from referral to initial appointment as of September 1 2018?**

For the last three month period covering your request time frame, 93% of all referrals were seen within less than three weeks.

**5. How many mental health professionals (FTE) work for the DHBs child/youth service arm?**

There are currently 4.9 FTE Mental Health professionals working within the team.

**6. What age range do you see?**

Ages 5 to 19.

**7. How are children/youth triaged when referred to the service?**

All referrals are initially telephone triaged often with the parent or guardian to establish more facts and the nature of the presenting issues. At this stage for some, information and advice is all that's required. For others it is identified that one of our NGO partnership agencies is more appropriate to respond to the need and they are directed there.

For those that are identified as appropriate for CAMHS, all are offered a face to face appointment for the assessment process to begin. The triage process will consider acuity and level of risk which will inform the appropriate response time, which on occasions may require the use of the TACT service at times of crisis for the person concerned.

**8. How long are children/youth funded to see a mental health professional under the DHB service?**

There are no restrictions made on time or cost. Treatment programmes are designed to address each child's individual level of acuity and need.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**