



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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21 February 2019

Mava Enoka

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9270

I refer to your email dated 16 January 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding West Coast DHB's maternal mental health care:

1. How many live births in this DHB in 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively?

Data relating to total births for women domiciled in the West Coast region is collected by the Ministry of Health via the National Maternity Collection (MAT). This is due to the DHB not holding records for homebirth events or births that occur in other DHBs' facilities such as Christchurch. MAT provides statistical, demographic and clinical information about selected publicly funded maternity services up to nine months before and three months after a birth.

The West Coast DHB therefore does not hold complete data for the 2018 year and can only provide the number of births that occurred within a West Coast DHB facility during that period; 244.

In 2016 there were 315 live births to West Coast domiciled women and in 2017 there were 356.

2. Does this DHB have any funding dedicated to maternal mental health?

2 (a). If yes, how much annually?

2 (b). Please provide a breakdown of where that funding is allocated

The West Coast DHB has no funding allocated specifically to maternal mental health services on the West Coast however a contribution is made to the regional Mothers and Babies service provided by Canterbury DHB. In the financial year 2018/19 the West Coast DHB contributed \$93,880 to this service.

3. Does this DHB have a dedicated Maternal Mental Health service and team?

3.(a) If yes, who does it serve (e.g. severe cases of PND)?

3.(b) How many women did this service see / treat in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively ?

The West Coast DHB does not have a dedicated Maternal Mental Health team; however the Specialist Mental Health Service (SMHS) are able to provide support for women requiring this type of service unless referral to the regional service is clinically indicated. The SMHS does not record whether or not a patient falls into the Maternal Mental Health category and therefore numbers of women using this service cannot be provided.

The DHB region also has community supports available through primary care for mild to moderate mental health concerns including brief intervention counselling and through NGOs for bonding and attachment advice as well as family/whānau support.

The West Coast DHB is currently working with Maternity services to develop improved recording of the Maternal Mental Health journey, including tracking numbers of women referred for different services.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support