



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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

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28 October 2020

9(2)(a)

### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9480**

I refer to your email dated 5 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding mental health prescriptions. Specifically:

- 1. The number of antidepressant prescriptions handed out at the DHB each year for the last five years (January to December 2016 to January 2020 to YTD), broken down by each hospital if more than one under the DHB.***
- 2. The number of people prescribed antidepressants under the DHB each year for the last five years (January to December 2016 to January 2020 to YTD), broken down by each hospital if more than one under the DHB.***
- 3. The number of antipsychotic prescriptions handed out at the DHB each year for the last five years (January to December 2016 to January 2020 to YTD), broken down by each hospital if more than one under the DHB.***
- 4. The number of people prescribed antipsychotic prescriptions under the DHB each year for the last five years (January to December 2016 to January 2020 to YTD), broken down by each hospital if more than one under the DHB.***

### **With regard to questions 1 – 4 above:**

West Coast DHB does not hold a central record of the information you have requested. Medications given to inpatients and daypatients - including the number of different antidepressants and antipsychotic chartings - are written up during all inpatient stays on their paper charts as may be pertinent to individual patients concerned. Our wards hold a lot of these medications as imprest stock to use for patients in the ward as required and is charted as dispensed for regular pharmaceutical reconciliation audit.

We note that mental health patients are not the only patient category to whom antidepressant and antipsychotic medications may be prescribed and dispensed to as part of overall inpatient care; these medications are also clinically indicated for treatment in a number of conditions not specifically related to mental health. As such, we would have to manually go through all patient clinical case notes and charts to see what has been prescribed for each patient.

We therefore decline to provide additional information that may or may not be held if we undertook manual research of each of individual patients' case notes under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act i.e. "... that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."

- 5. The number of admissions to the adult mental health inpatient unit each year for the last five years (January to December 2016 to January 2020 to YTD), broken down by each hospital if more than one under the DHB.***

West Coast DHB's Provider Arm operates just one adult mental health inpatient unit, located in Greymouth. The number of admissions made to our adult mental health inpatient unit each calendar year for the last five years (January 2016 through to 30 September 2020) were as follows

- 1 January to 31 December 2016 - 140
- 1 January to 31 December 2017 - 159
- 1 January to 31 December 2018 - 143
- 1 January to 31 December 2019 - 131
- 1 January to 30 September 2020 (nine months only) - 76

**6. The total amount of DHB funds allocated to the adult mental health inpatient each year for the last five years (January - December 2016 to January 2020 - YTD), with brief detail of what the money was being spent on each year. NOTE: question modified to include all mental health services broken down by CADS, forensics, Child and Youth and community.**

Our budgets operate in financial years from 1 July to 30 June, rather than calendar years. During the past six financial years, covering the period from 1 January 2016, West Coast DHB allocated the following funding to our DHB Provider Arm adult mental health inpatient unit and community based mental health services:

**Table one:**

<b>Provider Arm Mental Health Services:</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
1. Adult Mental Health Inpatient Unit	\$ 3,441,204	\$ 3,187,480	\$ 3,121,308	\$ 3,037,446	\$ 2,977,888	\$ 2,928,110
2. Alcohol and other drug - Opioid substitution	\$ 212,761	\$ 197,074	\$ 192,983	\$ 187,797	\$ 184,115	\$ 181,037
3. Community Alcohol and Drug Specialist services	\$ 709,539	\$ 657,224	\$ 643,580	\$ 626,286	\$ 614,006	\$ 603,743
4. Child, Adolescent and Youth Alcohol and Drug services	\$ 364,225	\$ 337,370	\$ 330,366	\$ 321,489	\$ 315,186	\$ 309,917
5. Infant, Child, Adolescent and Youth community mental health services	\$ 867,630	\$ 803,659	\$ 786,975	\$ 765,828	\$ 750,812	\$ 738,262
6. Kaupapa Maori community clinical support and Kaumatua services	\$ 442,231	\$ 409,624	\$ 401,121	\$ 390,342	\$ 382,689	\$ 376,292
7. Community clinical mental health	\$ 4,213,399	\$ 3,902,741	\$ 3,821,721	\$ 3,719,029	\$ 3,646,106	\$ 3,585,159
8. Needs Assessment	\$ 227,009	\$ 210,271	\$ 205,906	\$ 200,373	\$ 196,444	\$ 193,160
9. Mental Health Older Persons Dementia Behavioural Support	\$ 47,009	\$ 43,543	\$ 42,639	\$ 41,494	\$ 40,680	\$ 40,000
10. Adult Community Support	\$ 564,112	\$ 522,520	\$ 511,672	\$ 497,923	\$ 488,160	\$ 480,000
11. Mental health programmes and service development	\$ 1,440,267	\$ 1,334,074	\$ 1,306,379	\$ 1,258,023	\$ 946,208	\$ 930,391
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 12,529,386</b>	<b>\$ 11,605,580</b>	<b>\$ 11,364,650</b>	<b>\$ 11,046,030</b>	<b>\$ 10,542,294</b>	<b>\$ 10,366,071</b>

Funds allocated to adult mental health inpatient unit each year were principally spent on staff salaries, patient-related care costs (including medications, meals, etc.), building maintenance, portering and cleaning, laundry, insurance, heating, electricity and other utility-related expenses.

Funds allocated to the DHB's Provider Arm community-based mental health services were principally used to cover staff salaries (acute and crisis response clinical staff, mental health counselling staff, alcohol and drug service clinical staff and administration support), travel costs for staff to visit patients and their significant others within the community up and down the West Coast district, patient medications, sundry patient-related care costs, and the provision of office and related expenses for DHB staff.

The data in **Table one** does not include funds that were allocated to NGO providers or paid to other DHBs to deliver mental health services, or those with a mental health service component. In 2020/21, West Coast DHB has allocated \$5,279,230 in its Funder budget for these services; up from \$5,161,838 in 2019/20. Included within this block is funding for mental health residential care services and a range of community-based and other mental health intervention services, such as dual diagnosis support services, day activity recovery and rehabilitation services, consumer and family advocacy, workforce training (including suicide prevention), and primary mental health care provided through PHO and Maori Health provider services.

**7. The number of complaints relating to mental health care each year for the last five years (January - December 2016 to January 2020 - YTD), with a brief description of each complaint. Also, a breakdown of the number of these complaints that were investigated.**

The number of complaints relating to the various mental health services of the West Coast DHB received each year over the last five years, along with a high-level composite summary of the seven main themes within these complaints, are outlined in the two table of graphs below.

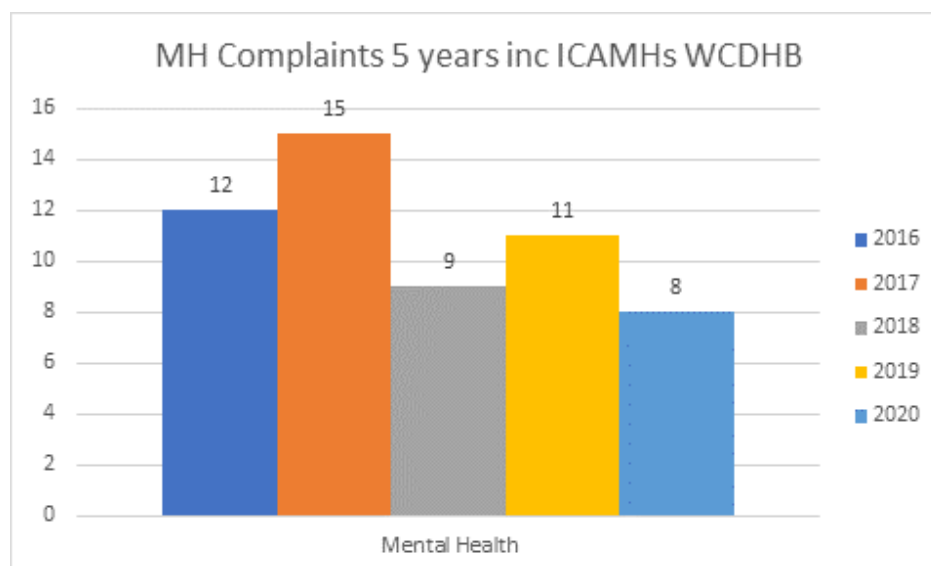
This data includes complaints received about the DHB's inpatient service, as well as all complaints received in regard to community-based infant, child adolescents, youth and adult mental health services.

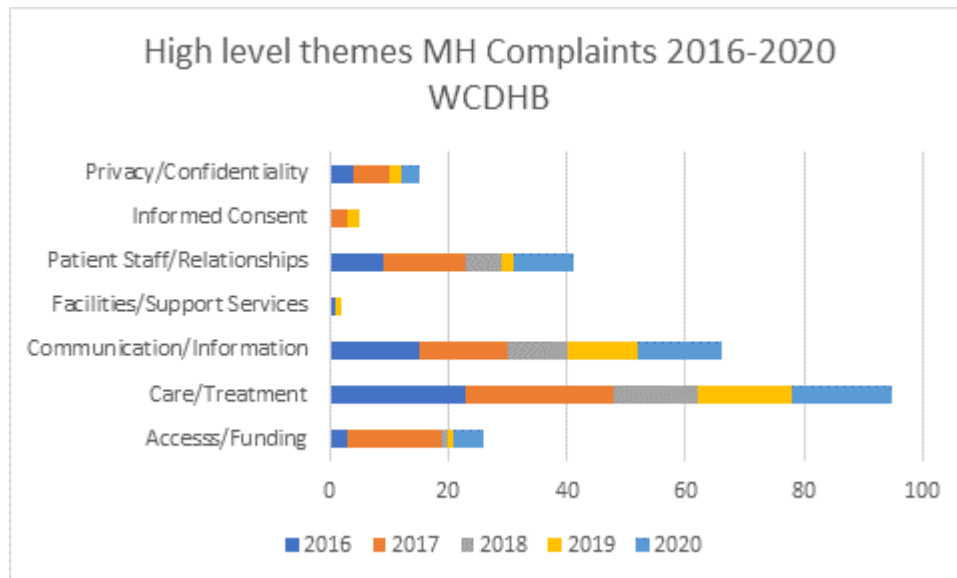
We note the following caveats in interpretation of the information shown in the two graphs (below and overleaf).

West Coast DHB records and collates data relating to complaints into seven main high level themes within our complaints database; each theme with its own subset groups of topics.

The database lists 56 subsets overall within the seven main high level themes. Individual complaints received may often contain multiple theme topics. Where this occurs, each subset topic is separately captured and counted in respect of the feedback received; hence, the apparent significant variation reflected in the graph numbers between complaints received and complaint themes for the respective years.

We note that all complaints that are received by West Coast DHB are investigated as a matter of course.





I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Ralph La Salle  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**