



MidCentral Health
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13 May 2019

Siobhan Lehnhard

Email: fyi-request-10113-5b12396a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Siobhan

Official Information Act Request

We received your Official Information Request, on 15 April 2019 for the following:

- 1. The total number of assaults against nurses by members of the public from 2013-2018.
How many assaults against nurses by members of the public, broken down by each year from 2013-2018.***

MidCentral District Health Board's (MDHB) incident reporting system broadly categorises 'violence' as incidents that include either physical or non-physical violence. The definition of physical violence is where physical contact has been made from the patient to the staff member by means such as a punch, hit, kick, scratch or grab. Non-physical violence is defined as harassment, bullying, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, aggression toward property only and inappropriate manner, conduct or behaviour.

The figures reported in the table below is for all staff by calendar year.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of physical or non-physical violence incidents	7	56	98	42	63	112

MDHB introduced a new electronic incident reporting system over 2013 and there was a phased introduction which accounts for low numbers of reported incidents.

MDHB takes assault or threatening behaviour against our staff extremely seriously. We have commenced a process of developing an

occupational violence strategy to address the rise in incidents in our hospital and health system overall. We also encourage staff to report all incidents and the increase in incidents reported will in part reflect the proactive approach we are taking to encourage formal reporting across the workforce.

MDHB incident reporting system notes the role of the person who records the incident in the database. As this may or may not be the staff member directly involved, it is unable to report how many assaults were against nurses. To obtain this information would require us to review all incidents and given the number involved this would require substantial research. As such, we decline this part of our request in accordance with section 18(e) of the Official Information Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the MidCentral DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Catherwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Judith Catherwood
General Manager
Quality & Innovation