



Lakes District Health Board
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07 April 2021

K
Fyi website

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Dear K

Subject: Official Information Act request Re: suicide watch list

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act transferred from the Ministry of Health and received by Lakes DHB on 11 March 2021. You have requested:

“...all information on what services were put in place to risk assess the Vulnerable Persons List. This template is on the CASA website. Vulnerable people are what the Waikato DHB, and some members of community boards the police feel that suicide is imminent due to a family member having committed suicide recently or a close friend, or a cluster of suicides in a contained area.

The suggestion that varied services observe these elected 'Vulnerable Persons' without contact and without knowledge of such a list.

Casa also goes on to pinpoint specific data that is maintained for some 10years and is to be shared with relevant authorities.

I have already request privately all the information regarding myself and my family members who were told by a slightly honest representative for the crown that my eldest son and myself have been on this list since 2019. To no avail. Nothing has been forthcoming at all.

Casa states that certain managers of each DHB hold the list as well as themselves, and the relevant services have access to this database....”

1. What the cost of maintaining this list is for each DHB?

As part of the postvention process, there may, at times, be a need to compile a list of potentially vulnerable people known as a Vulnerable Persons Register (VPR). There is no singular VPR list but more of a list per Sudden Self-Inflicted Death (SSID) if deemed necessary.

Identifying and supporting vulnerable people is part of the postvention process as outlined in the CASA guidelines. This is known as suicide prevention measures within the postvention process.

The costs associated with this list are built into the suicide postvention coordination process.

2. *What are the observers having to observe and where is the critical point that would be addressed by making contact with a listee in order to assist?*

The purpose of a VPR is to build a collaborative response, to support families and individuals should anyone need it in the days to come after a SSID. The suicide postvention role coordinates different services and support for the bereaved.

**3. *I would like to know how many people are on this list. Either
A: with knowledge and consent or
B: completely unaware***

As mentioned above, there is no one list and our response depends on the complexities of each SSID. Some may not have a need to have vulnerable people identified and some may need support on a regular basis until their grief can become more manageable.

The level and kind of support for bereaved families is based on what the family itself identifies as needed.

4 *How and who collates the data collected.*

The Postvention Consultant works with bereaved families to collate the data. The information is gathered from various areas and often from family members themselves when they are worried about someone within their whānau or family.

**5 *HOW MANY PERSONS HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILST EITHER
A: BEING ON THE LIST
B: HAVING FAMILY MEMBERS ON THIS LIST FOR EXTENDED PERIOD WITH NO CONTACT.***

The Postvention Consultant has been in the role since April 2020 and in that time no one identified as vulnerable has committed suicide.

6. *I would like to know who is the administrator and who is responsible for the inadequate and inhumane structure of observing without any contact to the persons being observed, even after a family member may commit suicide.*

As mentioned above, part of the postvention process is to identify and assist anyone who may need support after a suicide.

Our response to the bereaved can range from a phone call to check on them and see how they are doing to an extensive range of added support. Most families are grateful for the contact and appreciate the on-going communication.

7. *Under what human and legal rights as well as privacy laws does this 'Observing and collating data' use or fail to use*

Lakes DHB abides by the interagency privacy agreement with CASA.

With the new Privacy Act 2020 and the new HIPC 2030 Lakes DHB is working with the Government Chief Privacy Officer and his officials to ensure our processes and procedures abide with legislative and regulatory requirements while also ensuring vulnerable people are kept safe.

8. What funding is allocated for this VPL and for the varied govt services that are coerced to perform this?

See question one.

9. Whether ACC is prepared to cover the cost of traumatic loss of life whilst being observed on the list. To cover government subsidised breach of ethics, laws, financial accountability, morality and humanity.

This question was not transferred to Lakes DHB.

10. Have you heard of the Cartwright enquiry?

Yes.

Please note we may publish this letter and enclosed documents (with your personal information removed) on Lakes DHB's website.

Yours sincerely



**Nick Saville-Wood
Chief Executive**

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