

12 August 2014

DE Sheridan
fyi-request-1788-15c1c8a6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear DE Sheridan

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request of 10 July 2014 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“1. Please indicate how many Branch, RIS or Corporate or other Psychologists ACC has had each year for the past 5 years (by Branch or unit, including RIS or Corporate positions?)”

Table one: Number of Branch Advisory Psychologists by calendar year.

Year	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
2010	9	5.51
2011	11	6.51
2012	17	9.96
2013	18	11.00
2014	19	11.30

Note – The position of Branch Advisory Psychologist (BAP) within ACC was created in 2010.

There are no other psychologists employed by ACC in their capacity as a psychologist.

“2. What qualifications are they required to have and how does ACC insure they are kept up to date?”

The majority of BAPs are registered psychologists in the clinical scope of practice. There is one Branch Advisory Psychologist in the psychologist scope but they have obtained comprehensive clinical training through virtue of the positions held.

All BAPs are required to meet the requirements of their registration board in terms of professional development. They are encouraged to maintain a clinical practice and are involved in peer consultation groups, as well as at least monthly one-to-one supervision.

Each year, BAPs attend a two-day conference where a range of clinical and professional issues are presented and discussed. They also attend a two-day ACC Clinical Advisor's conference, and ACC provides a yearly allowance for them to facilitate their professional development.

“3. What are the job descriptions for each different type of psychologist's job?”

The position description for the role of Branch Advisory Psychologist is attached.

“4. What are their pay rates?”

The FTE salary range for an ACC employed BAP is \$118,226 - \$166,906.

“5. Have psychologists ever been used by RIS Units, Branches, ACC government services, or ACC legal services to advise ACC staff on how to maximize psychological pressure on claimants? If so, how have they been used; and is this practice on-going?”

No.

Please contact me at Lisa.White@acc.co.nz if you have any questions about this letter.

If you're unhappy with ACC's response, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Lisa White
Senior Advisor, Government Services