

5 July 2016

Alex Harris
FYI.org.nz

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Dear Mr Harris

Re Official Information Act Request – Statistics on seclusion of mental health patients

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 08 June 2016 requesting the following information:

1. The number of mental health patients currently detained in seclusion units.

There are currently zero patients in seclusion at the time of preparing this response.

Seclusion is a clinical intervention that is provided for in section 71 of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 and can only be legally implemented subject to the conditions that are specified in that Act and Auckland DHB works within this legislation.

The Health and Disability Services (Restraint Minimisation and Safe Practices) Standards (Standards New Zealand, 2008b), revised in June 2009 describe the practice for seclusion as:

Seclusion as a clinical intervention is used for the shortest time as possible and done so as a safety mechanism only. The clinical decision to seclude is an uncommon event and used as a final alternative and subject to strict review. Auckland DHB has been working to and integrating these standards into practice over the last eight years.

Auckland DHB also has been actively working to the Ministry of Health revised 2010 guidelines on Seclusion under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. This guideline also articulates best practice for the use of seclusion. These guidelines clearly state that, over time, the intent is that mental health services will limit the use of seclusion on patients.

2. How long each has been detained for. I'm happy for this to be aggregated into bands (e.g. less than one month, 1-3 months, 3-6 months, 6 months-1 year and so on) in order to protect

privacy. If this would result in a refusal for substantial collation and research because there are more than a hundred such detainees, I am happy to limit the statistics to those detained for more than six months.

The table below gives the month-by-month and 12 month summary for seclusion for the 12 month period from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016 (the latest 12 months of complete data).

All seclusion took place in the adult acute inpatient unit and the duration of seclusions is reported in hours in the table below.

Month	Distinct Individuals secluded	Episodes of seclusion	Total duration of all episodes of seclusion (hrs)
Jun-15	0	0	0.0
Jul-15	1	1	6.5
Aug-15	0	0	0.0
Sep-15	2	6	135.5
Oct-15	4	6	47.4
Nov-15	3	7	80.0
Dec-15	1	1	0.3
Jan-16	1	2	22.8
Feb-16	4	5	64.2
Mar-16	6	8	95.5
Apr-16	2	4	38.7
May-16	0	0	0.0
.12 month total	18	40	491.2

Eighteen individuals were secluded in Auckland DHB for the 12 months to the end of May 2016. As some of these individuals were secluded more than once, there were a total of 40 episodes of seclusion in that 12 month period.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive