

Wednesday, 8 December 2021

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████████████████████

Re: Official Information Act Request – ADHD

Kia ora ██████████

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

You asked:

- 1. Do you diagnose ADHD for those under the age of 18, and for those over 18? If so, what is the process to getting a diagnosis, and who does the diagnosis? If not, please explain why not.*
- 2. What is the waiting list/average time frame to be diagnosed over the last 12 months? (for under and over 18)*
- 3. What support do you provide once they are diagnosed?*
- 4. Do you have the ability to cope with an ADHD person in crisis? What care is provided?*

The Hauora Tairāwhiti response is as follows:

1. Yes we do – both under 18 and over 18.
2. It is highly variable and average wait times have no validity. Young people are sometimes seen via a paediatric pathway. The time for the over 18s is dependent usually on psychiatrist staffing as the majority of referrals are to support GP prescribing for special authority medications. The referrals are not usually triaged as urgent.
3. It depends on the age group and what the presenting issues are. Sometimes this is an assessment, diagnosis and medication treatment path only. Sometimes it is a comprehensive service with intensive support. ADHD often occurs with other mental health co-morbidities.
4. A response to mental health crisis is not determined by diagnostic frameworks.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note this response or an edited version of this response may be published on the Hauora Tairāwhiti DHB website. Your personal/identifying information will be redacted from any responses published. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Ngā mihi

**Jim Green**  
Chief Executive  
Hauora Tairāwhiti