

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202008634

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 1 December 2020 for:

“Job descriptions for Health Improvement Practitioners and Health Coaches, the qualifications and skills of the people who have taken up these roles, details of the training and supervision that they are receiving, the treatment methodologies that they are applying, the professional regulatory authority to which they are accountable, and the evaluation mechanisms that are operating to ensure that what they are doing is of sustained worth.”

Information in response to each part of your request is as follows:

“Job descriptions for Health Improvement Practitioners and Health Coaches, the qualifications and skills of the people who have taken up these roles.”

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is not responsible for employing Health Improvement Practitioners (HIP's) and Health Coaches (HC's) and therefore does not hold information pertaining to job descriptions for these roles, or the qualifications and skills of people whom occupy these roles. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

“Details of the training and supervision that they are receiving”

Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui (Te Pou) have been contracted by the Ministry to coordinate and ensure that recommended training support is provided for the Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction (IPMHA) service model. The following training is provided for HIPs and HCs.

HIP training is provided by a certified Health Improvement trainer and includes:

- Phase one – a four-day face to face training.
- Phase two – two days of coaching and observed practice with a HIP trainer in the place of work.
- Phase three – ongoing coaching and attendance at regular webinars.

HC training is provided by two external training agencies, Health Literacy NZ (www.healthliteracy.co.nz/) and Tamaki Healthcare (www.tamakihealth.co.nz/). This training is for people who are employed to provide health coaching as part of the IPMHA services.

Additional professional development is provided by Te Pou, as part of its wider workforce programme. A copy of the training support provided by Te Pou can be found on the Te Pou website: www.tepou.co.nz/initiatives/primary-mental-health/125

“The treatment methodologies that they are applying”

A key part of the IPMHA model is the ability to respond effectively to all presenting issues, using behavioural health support. As a result, HIPs and HCs are skilled in and utilise a wide range of treatment methodologies most appropriate to the individual being supported. However, the Ministry does not hold specific information on all treatment methodologies being used by HIPs and HCs.

“The professional regulatory authority to which they are accountable”

All HIPs are required to be registered under the HPCA Act 2003, or DAPAANZ. The HIP workforce is accountable to their relevant professional body. HCs are a non-clinical workforce and as such are not registered under the HPCA Act 2003 or DAPAANZ.

“The evaluation mechanisms that are operating to ensure that what they are doing is of sustained worth.”

The Ministry has contracted an external provider to evaluate the implementation and delivery of the IPMHA service. This two-year evaluation began on 1 July 2020 and is expected to be completed by 30 June 2022.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Toni Gutschlag
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Mental Health and Addiction**