

29 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H202206797

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 23 May 2022 for information about the regional/national intellectual disability secure services (RIDSS/NIDSS) and Explore Specialist Advice (Healthcare NZ). I will respond to each part of your request in turn:

RIDSS/NIDSS:

- a) How many individuals are currently on a waitlist for RIDSS/NIDSS services?*
- b) How many people have been referred to RIDSS/NIDSS services but have been diverted to residential care providers due to capacity issues?*

There is no waitlist for RIDSS/NIDSS services and no people who have been referred to RIDSS/NIDSS services have been diverted to residential care providers due to capacity issues. The requirements of the Intellectual Disability Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation (IDCCR) Act 2003 do not allow for this to occur, under statute. As such this information does not exist and your request is refused under Section 18(e) of the Act.

- c) Can I please have statistics in terms of length of stay for people in RIDSS/NIDSS? i.e., range, mean and median.*

This Information is not readily available and would require significant analysis to report in a meaningful way, as there are a range of variables that relate to and determine the length of an individual's stay. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act and 18(f) of the Act as if the Ministry were to undergo a search this would require substantial collation or research.

Explore Behaviour Support Services

- a) How many people are currently on the waitlist for behaviour support services?*

As of 10 June 2022, 1,786 people are on the Explore behaviour support services waitlist.

- b) Are cases streamed in terms of the level of need e.g., high-risk behaviour? If so, what are the requirements for the highest risk? What proportion of cases would fit this category?*

Yes, Explore referrals are triaged for urgency, which includes an assessment of risk and other factors based on the referral information provided.

Specific information related to referral requirements for the highest risk is withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Approximately 3% of referrals are triaged as urgent.

c) What is the requirement for behaviour specialists in terms of professional development in 'Positive Behaviour Support' i.e., do specialists need to do a specific course and what is this?

There is no specific professional development requirement or course. Specialists who are employed have a range of backgrounds, and their knowledge is evaluated as part of the recruitment process. Ongoing professional development opportunities are provided for staff.

d) How many BCBA's are currently employed by Explore?

The Ministry does not hold this information. As such this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act and there are no grounds to believe it is held by another agency subject to the Act. BCBA qualifications are not recorded as this is not a New Zealand registration requirement.

e) How many child and family psychologists are currently employed by Explore?

f) How many educational psychologists are currently employed by Explore?

g) How many clinical psychologists are currently employed by Explore?

Explore currently employs four child and family psychologists, 13 educational psychologists and 16 clinical psychologists.

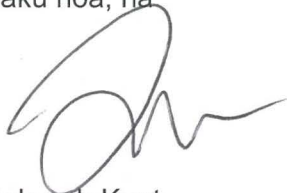
How many behaviour specialists are currently NOT registered psychologists and do not have a BCBA qualification?

There are 104 behaviour specialists across Explore services that are not registered psychologists. There are 52 registered psychologists. Please refer to question D above in relation to those behaviour specialists not holding BCBA qualification.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Deborah Kent
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Disability**