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Minister for Mental Health Weekly Report

Week commencing 10 February 2024
prepared on 4 February 2024

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1 Mental health work programme weekly update

1.1 Mental Health and Housing interface (Sensitive)

This item updates you on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) current work that interfaces with mental health and addiction.

The Government's 75% reduction in households in emergency housing by 2030 target (Target eight) is on track in the latest progress reporting, with a priority focus on placing families with children into more permanent housing options. While there has been good progress, there remains concern about those who have complex needs who may be most at risk of homelessness or significant housing instability. HUD is progressing several workstreams described below, which seek to support this cohort, many of whom are likely to be experiencing mental distress or mental health and addiction conditions.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Transitions from state care

In December 2024, HUD provided advice to Housing Ministers on intentions to work on opportunities to improve transitions from state care and custody, with the aim of identifying operational improvements in the first half of 2025. This is another workstream under Target eight. Health New Zealand's (Health NZ) Rapua Te Āhuru Mōwai (for people exiting mental health inpatient units who are at risk of homelessness in Auckland and Waikato), is an example of a transition programme.

This workstream holds potential benefits for the mental health system, as a lack of appropriate accommodation to which to discharge people in inpatient services is a known challenge that can result in long-stay patients and capacity pressures. This is particularly the case in regions like Northland, where a lack of available housing means people need to remain in inpatient services and this is reducing access to some specialist treatment.

Social outcomes trials in Wellington and Waikato

s 9(2)(g)(i)

The trial is for two years and aims to see people stably housed. The trial provides wraparound support tailored to each individual in recognition of their complex needs, such as mental health challenges. Supports may include, for example, enrolment in primary health care, and access to budgeting, employment, and counselling services.

The trial will test elements of a social outcomes contracting approach by not being prescriptive about outputs but rather being more focused on outcomes. Providers will get an upfront payment to cover their set up costs and then get paid once they have stably housed people at three, six and 13 months.

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

Deputy Director-General	Geoff Short, Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health, s 9(2)(a)
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1.2 Gumboot Friday update

This item updates you on the Gumboot Friday initiative. Officials received the latest bi-monthly report regarding services delivered under the contract with the I Am Hope Foundation on 20 January 2025. This report covered services delivered in November and December 2024.

Service delivery data

In November and December 2024, a total of 3,045 young people received free counselling services through the Gumboot Friday platform. Of these:

- 414 were Māori
- 53 were Pasifika
- 2,076 were NZ European
- 209 were Asian
- 293 reported another ethnicity.

The total number of young people that have received services from July 2024 through December 2024 is now approximately 9,700 (the target for the year is 15,000 young people receiving support through Gumboot Friday), and I Am Hope has received payment for delivery of a total of 15,110 sessions since the contract began. To date, I Am Hope has received a total of \$3,199,242.50 (GST inclusive) under the contract.

The average wait time for young people across November 2024 and December 2024 was 5.78 days, with 185 young people waiting more than five days. This is the second consecutive reduction of average wait time, with the bi-monthly reporting for September and October 2024 stating an average of 6.53 days.

Updates on engagement and quality initiatives

I Am Hope is continuing to engage with Te Rau Ora on opportunities to work together, with a focus on improving mental health outcomes for young Māori.

CV Check (NZ) is continuing to conduct I Am Hope’s Children’s Worker Safety Checks of oncoming providers. As previously advised, this is expected to continue to improve the quality and speed of safety checks enabling faster onboarding without compromising safety.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

Next steps

We will continue to keep you informed of progress of Gumboot Friday as we receive their bi-monthly reports.

Deputy Director-General	Geoff Short, Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health, s 9(2)(a)
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2 Other updates

There are no updates this week.

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