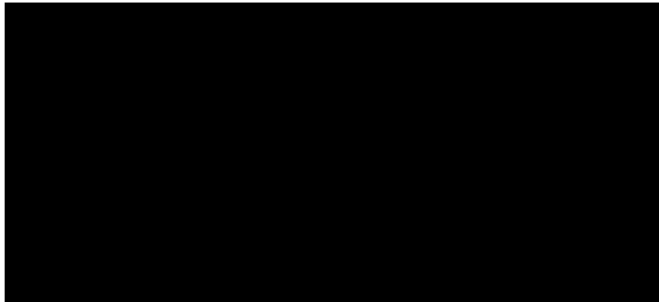


05 SEP 2019

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Response to your request for official information

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

You requested information about the Wellbeing Budget, specifically a breakdown of how much funding was allocated to particular areas of mental health services, including depression (mood disorder), post-natal depression, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, trauma-related disorders, and substance-related disorders.

A copy of your full request including information held by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) in response to each of your queries is outlined in Appendix 1 of this letter.

Please note that on 20 August 2019, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by the Ministry under section 15 of the Act, as further collation and research was required.

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RS'.

Robyn Shearer
Deputy Director-General
Mental Health and Addiction

Appendix 1

A breakdown of what how much money will be put into different areas the Wellbeing Budget. Particular areas, which services, how much money allocated e.g. Depression (mood disorder) services (what ones and how much money), post-natal depression, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, trauma related disorders and substance related disorders. If the budget isn't covering these can this be made clear, also if there is a category missed can it be made clear along with the figures.

As you may be aware, the Wellbeing Budget includes an investment of \$1.9 billion over four years in a mental wellbeing package. The investment includes:

- \$455 million for a new model of primary mental health and addiction care so that people can access free and immediate advice and support, when and where needed;
- An increase of \$213 million in the amount ring-fenced by district health boards (DHBs) for mental health and addiction treatment services;
- Investment of \$200 million in new and existing mental health and addiction facilities;
- \$44 million to improve existing specialist drug addiction services, and investment of \$14 million in primary responses for alcohol and drug issues; and
- \$40 million for suicide prevention services, to better support people at risk and people bereaved by suicide.

For your reference, the 'Summary of Initiatives in Budget 2019' is publicly available from the Treasury website, which will include further information on the Wellbeing Budget and services that are funded for Alcohol and Other Drug services:

<https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/summary-initiatives-budget-2019-html>

It is important to note that the funding in the Wellbeing Budget is not allocated to treat specific mental illnesses, such as eating disorders, depression and anxiety disorders, however, the services funded through the Wellbeing Budget are expected to be accessed by, and to respond to the needs of, people with those conditions. This part of the request is therefore refused under section 18(e), as the requested information does not exist.

In addition, under New Zealand's devolved health funding system, DHBs have discretion over the distribution of mental health and addiction funding they are allocated, including towards what types of services are provided. The Ministry, therefore, cannot provide information about the specific conditions or disorders this part of the Wellbeing Budget will cover. The Wellbeing Budget reflects the intent to ensure that people have timely access to high-quality services for a range of mental health and wellbeing needs.

Specifically looking at the funding for eating disorder services and facilities, in comparison to how much is being put into helping people with depression and addiction. If possible I would also like to know how much was money was allocated to eating disorders by the Government before the 2019 Wellbeing Budget. I am after information from 2010 onwards.

The table below outlines expenditure for services that are specifically funded to treat eating disorders from 2009/10 to 2017/18. Please note that this expenditure is for specialist-dedicated eating disorders services. It is not necessarily indicative of the total expenditure that is spent to treat eating disorders or to support the needs of people with eating disorders. People with eating disorders may receive treatment and therapy through primary and specialist mental health and addiction services that provide support for a range of needs (such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts and feelings, self-harm and

addiction issues). They may also receive support through services outside of the health system.

I have provided the expenditure for services that are specifically funded for alcohol and drug services, including methadone. However, as with eating disorder expenditure, it is not necessarily indicative of the total expenditure that is spent to treat and support people with alcohol and drug issues. People may present to other services with alcohol and drug issues and may also receive support through services outside of the health system.

Table 1. Vote Health expenditure for services that are specifically funded for eating disorders and services that specifically funded for alcohol and drug services from 2009/10 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Expenditure on services for eating disorders (\$)	Expenditure on services for alcohol and drug services (\$)
2009/10	5,009,736	122,842,636
2010/11	11,224,165	132,710,660
2011/12	13,393,561	135,989,194
2012/13	13,941,746	132,740,163
2013/14	14,724,167	141,516,306
2014/15	14,872,183	147,270,722
2015/16	14,921,969	148,960,927
2016/17	14,420,884	154,589,484
2017/18	14,872,940	159,235,522

You have also requested the above figures be compared to how much is being put into helping people with depression. As the Wellbeing Budget, and health funding more generally, is not allocated by specific diagnostic categories we are unable to compare the figures above with total expenditure on depression. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18 (e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.