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§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2023019752

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 31 January 2023 for information regarding mental health costs. You requested:

*"...the "Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Health, 2017" and it mentions on page 26 that "The societal impacts of mental illness are significant. The annual cost of serious mental illness, including addiction, in New Zealand is estimated at \$12 billion per year (5 percent of gross domestic product)."*

*I would like to enquire more about how the details of this statistic were sourced or calculated. What is the data that informed this statistic?"*

The costs of serious mental illness that were referenced in the 2017 Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Health were informed by a report commissioned by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. A copy of this report, which includes information on how the costs were calculated, is publicly available on the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' website at: [www.ranzcp.org/files/resources/reports/ranzcp-serious-mental-illness.aspx](http://www.ranzcp.org/files/resources/reports/ranzcp-serious-mental-illness.aspx).

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Kiri Richards  
**Associate Deputy Director-General  
Mental Health and Addiction  
System Performance and Monitoring | Te Pou Mahi Pūnaha**