

Corporate Services



28 April 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2022029

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 March 2022 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

***My question is in regards to the alcohol and addiction team and asks:
How long has the dhb been without an accredited addiction specialist?***

Hawke's Bay DHB has an accredited addiction specialist, Dr Sohail Skeikh. Dr Sheikh is a Medical Officer Special Scale (MOSS) and an accredited Opioid Substitution Treatment lead clinician. An additional FTE role for an addiction specialist (alcohol and other drugs) has recently been approved and is currently being recruited to.

The DHB's residential care unit, Springhill, also provides clinics by General Practitioners who specialise in alcohol and other drugs addictions.

Were the dhb offering training with the addictions faculty if so for how long? and if no longer why?

Clinicians employed by the DHB in the addictions faculty are employed fully qualified and trained for their role. While the DHB does not currently have an official accredited Alcohol and Other Drugs training run for Registrar and specialist training, it does offer ongoing professional development opportunities through Te Pou if clinicians wish to specialise in another field within the addictions faculty.

The DHB also offers and encourages staff who are not qualified in addictions (such as administration staff) to complete a two year, part time programme through *Te TakeTake* that is recognised by the Drug and Alcohol Practitioners' Association Aotearoa-New Zealand.,

Who is the current vocational clinician for clients receiving opiod substitute treatment(OST)?

The current vocational clinician for clients receiving opiod substitute treatment is Dr. Sohail Sheikh.

If locums are being used how many, and are these clinicians addiction specialists?

Nil – no locums are providing these services.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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Is the CEO confident the team are not missing critical clinical information with a team whom may not be all attending MDT?

Hawke's Bay District Health Board's Chief Executive employs a clinical leadership team to oversee best practice and timely patient-centred care.

The DHB's Mental Health and Addictions Service leads place full confidence in staff attendance of MDT meetings and regular sharing of clinical information.

Additionally, patients/whānau are encouraged to share any specific clinical concerns, so these can be promptly addressed.

The DHB operates under a full disclosure policy with patients/consumers and encourages feedback and engagement (whether positive or negative) on any aspect of their care/services via a dedicated Patient, Safety and Quality team. Patient safety is our utmost priority and the DHB is committed to learnings as part of its feedback process to enable it to improve services and reduce the likelihood of similar experiences affecting other patients and whānau.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Chris Ash
Chief Operating Officer

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz
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