

Briefing

Publication of Te Huringa Tuarua 2023: Youth services focus report

Date due to MO:	8/05/2023	Action required by:	15/05/2023
Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Briefing number:	BN2023-007
To:	Hon Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health		
Copy to:	[REDACTED]		

Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	[REDACTED]
Karen Orsborn	Chief Executive	[REDACTED]
Tanya Maloney	Director, Mental Health and Addiction Sector Leadership	[REDACTED]

Minister's Office to Complete

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's note | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | |

Comment:

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To:	Hon Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health		

Purpose of briefing

1. The Youth services focus report is scheduled to be published on 17 May 2023. This briefing informs you of the key findings.
2. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1.

Context

3. The Youth services focus report forms parts of Te Huringa Mahara's 2023 mental health and addiction services monitoring. This monitoring is collectively called Te Huringa Tuarua 2023 and comprises an overall report and three focus reports.
4. The Youth services focus report examines the trends in admitting young people (aged 12 to 17 years) to adult inpatient mental health services in New Zealand and reflects on perspectives gained from discussions with young people, whānau and family.
5. He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction (2018) highlighted concern about the admission of children and adolescents to adult mental health settings.
6. Young people in situations of compulsory assessment and treatment have specific rights acknowledged in health and disability legislation.
7. For rangatahi Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi obliges the Crown to provide culturally appropriate health and disability services that recognise and support the expression of hauora Māori models of care.

Summary of report findings and calls to action

8. The rate of young people (aged 12 to 17 years) admitted to adult mental health inpatient services has decreased over the last decade (to 2021/22). However, over 150 young people each year are admitted to adult units each year.
9. There is variation in the rate of admission of young people to adult services between ethnicities, and between health districts. These variations need further investigation.
10. Young people we spoke to told us the negative impacts of admitting young people to adult services (e.g., exposure to violence, predatory behaviour) outweigh any potential positive aspects (e.g., earlier intervention, or receiving care closer to home).
11. Young people want youth-specific acute response services across New Zealand. This includes more community residential alternatives to child and adolescent hospital



inpatient mental health care, and kaupapa Māori services as part of the network of acute options for rangatahi Māori.

12. We call for:
 - a. further analysis to better understand the reasons for admitting young people to adult mental health services, and the variables associated with admission to adult services.
 - b. more youth-specific acute response services in communities to enable a reduction in the number of young people admitted to adult inpatient units to zero.

Consultation

13. We have consulted with Te Whatu Ora and Manatū Hauora. We received no formal feedback from Te Whatu Ora.
14. Manatū Hauora provided written feedback, which we have largely incorporated into the report.
15. We note that Manatū Hauora consider that our call to reduce the number of young people admitted to adult inpatient units to zero is inappropriate. They consider that there will always be a small number of situations where 'it may be in the best interests' of the young person to be admitted to an adult unit to maintain their safety or that of others. Manatū Hauora also noted that the size of our youth population means that even in our large centres, utilisation of existing youth crisis respite services can be low and challenging in relation to sustainability.
16. However, we consider that operational and geographical constraints are not sufficient reasons for young people to be placed with adults.

Next Steps

17. We have attached a communications plan as Appendix 2. Our media release will be given to your office prior to publication.

Recommendations

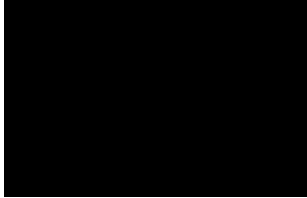
Te Hiringa Mahara recommends that you:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| a) | note the attached report Te Huringa Tuarua 2023: Youth services focus report | Yes No |
| b) | note the attached communications plan for the report | Yes No |
| c) | note that Te Hiringa Mahara intends to proactively release this briefing as part of our proactive release policy. | Yes No |

Attachments

Appendix 1 Te Huringa Tuarua 2023: Youth services focus report

Appendix 2 Communications plan



Karen Orsborn
Chief Executive
Date: 8/05/2023

Hon Ayesha Verrall
Minister of Health
Date:

