

29 January 2024

J Bruning

By email: fyi-request-25085-ae31ee39@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023033842

Tēnā koe

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 8 December 2023. We note that you made four similar requests on 8 December 2024, for information specifically held by individual directorates within the Ministry. The current request specified:

This OIA request is specifically directed to Clinical, Community and Mental Health Deputy Director-General – Robyn Shearer and her senior leadership team. Please do not transfer this request to any other department or Directorate. "

Each part of your request is copied and responded to below.

1. Budget for this team for the current and estimated next (2024/2025) financial year.

The budget for the Clinical, Community and Mental Health directorate for the 2023/24 financial year is \$15.803 million.

The 2024/25 budget has not been allocated or estimated.

2. Income of the Deputy Director-General Strategy Policy and Legislation, and numbers of team members and the incomes of the senior leadership team.

The information requested is outlined in the tables below.

Table 1. Deputy Director-General and Senior Leadership incomes

Position	Pay-band	Pay-band Midpoint
Deputy Director General	24E	\$286,922
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer	23E	\$259,690
Chief Medical Officer	23E	\$259,690
Manager – Clinical Quality & Safety	20G	\$157,407
Chief Nursing Officer	23E	\$259,690

Position	Pay-band	Pay-band Midpoint
Associate Deputy Director-General & Group Manager	22G	\$216,144
Manager – Office of the Deputy Director-General	20G	\$157,407

Table 2. Deputy Director-General and Senior Leadership numbers of reporting staff

Position	Direct Reports	Indirect Reports	Total
Deputy Director General	8	74	82
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer	1	0	1
Chief Medical Officer	1	0	1
Manager – Clinical Quality & Safety	11	0	11
Chief Nursing Officer	1	0	1
Associate Deputy Director-General & Group Manager	8	48	56
Manager – Office of the Deputy Director-General	4*	0	4

*Includes intern(s)

3. Terms of reference/expectations for this team and the name of the head of department that established the terms of reference/expectations.

There are no “terms of reference/expectations” for the Clinical, Community and Mental Health directorate.

4. Any information held by the directorate discussing the association of ultraprocessed food with poor mental health and neurodevelopmental disorders and outcomes including anxiety, depression, and ADHD.

5. Any information held by the directorate discussing the relationship of nutritional deficiency with poor learning and neurodevelopmental outcomes and mental illness.

6. Monitoring and/or data held reviewing ultraprocessed food consumption in New Zealand diets by age and socioeconomic status.

7. Papers held by your directorate authored or co-authored by Professor Julia Rucklidge, who is plausibly New Zealand's most published scientist on the relationship of nutrition and mental health.

8. The reported prevalence for food addiction 'is similar to the levels of addiction seen for other legal substances in adults (eg, 14% for alcohol and 18% for tobacco), but the level of implied addiction in children is unprecedented.' Gearhardt et al 2023. What scientific (including social science) information is held by your directorate on the addictive potential of ultraprocessed food?

9. A long-term pathway to mental wellbeing plausibly requires wraparound education to support a shift away from ultraprocessed food dependence to diets rich in safe and nutritious foods.

Please advise if there are proposals for networks of Allied Health, Scientific and Technical

Professionals (AHPs) to [a] help support dietary change of patients to improve mental health outcomes; and/or [b] proposals for education resources and funding across the pre-school, primary and secondary education system to increase knowledge of wholefood preparation and increase knowledge of the plausible impact on mental health from diets high in ultraprocessed foods for growing children.

10. *Is there engagement with other Ministries or agencies/departments on any policy initiatives which discuss the relationship of poor diets high in ultraprocessed food, with poor mental health?*

11. *Re: Clinical leadership: which experts in nutrition and mental health have been approached or will be approached to bring together expertise and influence the wider health sector?*

The Clinical, Community and Mental Health directorate does not hold any information in scope of parts 4 – 11 of your request as this is not part of the directorate's current work programme. The Ministry recognises that eating well is fundamental to good mental wellbeing, and supports our goal of Pae Ora – Healthy Futures for all New Zealanders.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Robyn Shearer
Deputy Director-General
Clinical, Community and Mental Health | Te Pou Whakakaha