

5 April 2023

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Official information request HNZ00013266

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 10 March for information relating to Tū Māia Regional Youth Forensic Service. Specifically:

- 1) *I am wanting to know information about the RYFS/Tu Maia unit as there is not much on the website please. Can you provide an overview and pathway through the service starting at the referral point and what assessments/ interventions can be provided?*
- 2) *Is a child able to access a comprehensive forensic assessment and/or other recommendations/ support/ psychological or paediatric input from RYFS/ Tu Maia assessment if they have already seen a psychiatrist/ had a forensic assessment completed?*

Response

- 1) ***I am wanting to know information about the RYFS/Tu Maia unit as there is not much on the website please. Can you provide an overview and pathway through the service starting at the referral point and what assessments/ interventions can be provided?***

Tū Māia is a youth forensic service for Tāmaki Makaurau. Rangatahi or young people who are involved in the justice system can have a brief assessment from a mental health professional on first appearance at court, engage in a court-ordered report process predominantly under section 333 of the Oranga Tamariki Act or can engage with assessment and treatment whilst in a secure youth justice residence in Auckland.

Referrals are accepted from Oranga Tamariki, Police, Courts or Youth Advocates.

Whilst caregivers are welcome to make phone enquires, referrals cannot be accepted directly from caregivers. Similarly, adolescents cannot self-refer.

The assessments are either the brief assessment noted above or a comprehensive mental health assessment. Treatments are varied and individualised, but at times can be impacted by the restrictions of a secure environment. Treatment includes sensory modulation, medication and education around healthy lifestyle, e.g. diet, sleep and exercise. We also provide talking therapy such as cognitive behavioural therapy, coping skills and if appropriate within remand timeframes, trauma-specific work. We also run a cultural intervention group in the community.

- 2) ***Is a child able to access a comprehensive forensic assessment and/or other recommendations/ support/ psychological or paediatric input from RYFS/ TuMaia***

assessment if they have already seen a psychiatrist/ had a forensic assessment completed?

The young person has access to a comprehensive forensic assessment and recommendations through a justice pathway, or a second opinion through a child and adolescent service if they are under that service currently. We balance the young person's needs with the system capacity and where possible, streamline the number of professionals a young person and their caregivers have to engage with.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Dr Mike Shepherd
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