

13 August 2019

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Response to a request for official information

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for official information received 7 August 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek information regarding our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) providers' policy.

1. *When/if they disclose to family that they are assessing/treating a young person;*

The family are always involved in assessment and treatment at CAMHS. If an adolescent is aged 16 or over CAMHS strongly encourages involvement with the young person's family/whanau if it is possible. If the young person refuses their guardians being informed, NMH is unable to override this refusal unless there are significant safety concerns or any evidence of serious risk to self or others.

2. *Whether they require caregivers' consent for a young person to access services (if so, what occurs if whanau does not consent);*

If someone is under the age of 16, NMH requires legal guardianship consent for assessment and treatment at CAMHS. If consent is refused NMH is unable to override this refusal unless there are significant safety concerns or any evidence of serious risk to self or others. If aged 16 or over, guardian consent is not required.

3. *And whether there are additional considerations made e.g. the age of the young person, their capacity to consent, cultural considerations.*

'Competency' or 'capacity' to make a decision to consent to, or refuse, a treatment or service is considered during assessment, in particular when the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 is applicable. CAMHS work with our Maori whanau to support access to cultural support. NMH has a Maori clinician who is available to make direct contact with Maori whanau to offer available cultural support services prior to any referral to internal or external cultural support services. There is also opportunity to offer kaupapa Maori clinical support services.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz

I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive

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