

Right to Information application 4199/22

Scope of application

We request on behalf of Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion data on the number of First Nations people receiving mental health treatment involuntarily in the Queensland public health system over the past 5 years (1 January 2018 - 1 December 2022).

Specifically, we request the numbers of First Nations people:

- (a) Receiving inpatient psychiatric treatment under a Treatment Authority or Forensic Order - Mental Health/Disability; and
- (b) Receiving psychiatric treatment in the community under a Treatment Authority or Forensic Order - Mental Health/Disability.

The time period / date range the applicant would like to search within: 1 January 2018 - 1 December 2022

Response

Number of open involuntary orders under the <i>Mental Health Act 2016</i> for consumers who identify as First Nations by order type and category								
Date range: 1 January 2018 to 1 December 2022								
Order type	Forensic Order (MH)		Forensic Order (Dis)		Treatment Support Order		Treatment Authority	
Category	Community	Inpatient	Community	Inpatient	Community	Inpatient	Community	Inpatient
Total no. of orders	138	67	43	10	69	1	129	4849
Grand total								5199

The number of involuntary orders does not equate to an individual consumer count. The following caveats to the data apply:

- Some consumers will be represented multiple times. In a five-year period, many changes can occur to a consumer's involuntary status. For instance, a consumer may commence on a Forensic Order but as time progresses and their health improves, they may be stepped down to a less restrictive order such as a Treatment Support Order. The reverse can also occur. Consumers can be subject to both a Forensic Order (Disability) and a Treatment Authority. Additionally, consumers can be subject to multiple orders if their health fluctuates i.e., a Treatment Authority is revoked and then another is subsequently made.
- First Nations status recorded in the Consumer Integrated Mental Health and Addiction (CIMHA) application is based on self-reported data. Consumers may elect not to disclose their First Nations status.
- Treatment Authorities are generally commenced in an inpatient setting and this is reflected in the data as it reflects the initial order category. The data does not reflect changes to the category of Authority to/from community category which may have occurred during the five-year period. By way of example, on a recent snapshot of Treatment Authority data, 91% of Authorities for First Nations consumers were community category.
- Only valid Treatment Authorities have been included in the table above. A Treatment Authority is valid where it has been made, or confirmed by, an Authorised Psychiatrist.