


Ngā Rau Rākau Courtyard Policy

MHAPPM/8957

Approved by:	General Manager – Mental Health & Addiction	First Issued:	August 2016	
Signature:	David Warrington	Review Date:	July 2022	
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Purpose

The purpose of this document to outline the standards to be met by all Ngā Rau Rākau Staff when tāngata whaiora are utilising a courtyard.

This document is to be used in conjunction with MHAPPM/8953 – [Mental Health and Addiction Group Policy](#) which outlines the shared vision and expectations for the direction, values, principles, attitudes and ways of working to deliver a values based service.

Principles

All Te Whatu Ora, Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay documents are based on and link back to our values; **He Kāwanuano** (respect), **Ākina** (improvement), **Raranga Te Tira** (partnership) and **Tauwhiro** (care), and are detailed so all persons are provided with clear information on the way they are expected to practice and undertake tasks.

Scope

All Ngā Rau Rākau staff.

Definitions

Refer to the Mental Health Service Definitions Glossary <\\FS3\share\Public\All Users\MHS Policy review\DEFINITIONS FOR WORDS AND TERMS IN USE WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.docx>.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Ngā Rau Rākau staff	To supervise and monitor whaiora accessing the courtyards and ensuring that assessment and reporting of mental state, risks including absent without leave (AWOL).

Te Whatu Ora, Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay Standards

- 1 Ngā Rau Rākau has courtyards to provide tāngata whaiora with an area in which recreational and/or therapeutic activities are available in an open air environment.
- 2 All tāngata whaiora have access to courtyards during day time hours for recreation and therapy.
- 3 Access to courtyard and orientation to the area is part of the admission process.

- 4 Puketea (secure ward) courtyard access must be supervised by staff at all times when the tāngata whaiora are using this area. Kowhai (open ward) and Kahikatea (transition ward) courtyards will be opened at designated times with staff supervision. This is to help identify any tāngata whaiora who are at risk of AWOL for the yard. If this happens, the team are to notified immediately and commence the AWOL or unauthorised leave procedure.
- 5 Staff must be wearing their personal alarms at all times.
- 6 Clear rationale must be documented for declining tāngata whaiora access to the courtyard during daylight hours. Courtyard access may be delayed briefly due to immediate ward environment but access should be granted as soon as staff are available to supervise.
- 7 Kowhai and Kahikatea courtyards will automatically be open from 0900 – 2100 hours daily.
- 8 A number of psychiatric medications increase skin sensitivity to the sun and the risk of sunburn. Staff must provide sufficient sun block for the tāngata whaiora using the courtyard. Staff must be alert for signs of sunburn and take appropriate action to minimise this (for example apply sun block, encourage use of available shade, encourage use of a hat, limit courtyard use).

Measurable Outcomes

Courtyards are used by tāngata whaiora.

Related Documents

MHAPPM/8953 – [Mental Health and Addiction Group Policy](#)

References

No references

Keywords

Courtyard

Absent without Leave (AWOL)

***For further information please contact the Clinical Nurse Manager –
Mental Health Intensive Service***