

2 September 2026

By email:

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 August 2026 seeking:

Against the Commission's estimate of 2,247 medicine-related deaths in 2013, under the Official Information Act 1982 please provide, for each of the past five complete reporting years:

- 1. The number of medicine- or medication-related SAC 1 events reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission.*
- 2. The number of medicine- or medication-related SAC 2 events reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission.*
- 3. The number of deaths relating to medicines or medication use reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission.*
- 4. Of those deaths, the number reported as ARR events.*

Our response

- 1. The number of medicine- or medication-related SAC 1 events reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission*

Reporting year	SAC 1
2021/2022	4
2022/2023	4
2023/2024	4
2024/2025	2
2025/2026*	5

* These are provisional numbers only as we have yet to undergo the process of reconciliation and publication for this reporting year.

2. *The number of medicine- or medication-related SAC 2 events reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission for each of the past five complete reporting years*

Reporting year	SAC 2
2021/2022	21
2022/2023	23
2023/2024	23
2024/2025	37
2025/2026*	40

* These are provisional numbers only as we have yet to undergo the process of reconciliation and publication for this reporting year.

3. *The number of deaths relating to medicines or medication use reported to the Health Quality & Safety Commission for each of the past five complete reporting years*

Reporting year	SAC 1	SAC 2
2021/2022	4	1
2022/2023	2	2
2023/2024	3	1
2024/2025	2	2
2025/2026*	5	1

* These numbers should be interpreted in the context that when providers submit the harm event and indicate the consumer went on to die, it should not be assumed that the death was a result of the harm event.

* These are provisional numbers only as we have yet to undergo the process of reconciliation and publication for this reporting year.

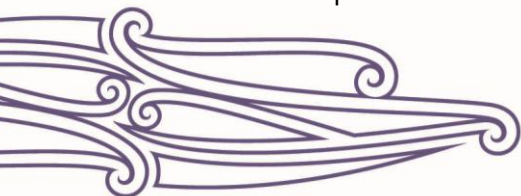
4. *Of those deaths, the number reported as ARR events for each of the past five complete reporting years*

Medicine or medication-related deaths are not reported as ARR events and as such we do not hold any data on this aspect. For a list of ARR event please follow this [link](#).

We encourage you to refer to the definitions of SAC 1 and 2 events when interpreting this data. The definitions can be found on p.17 of the [Healing, learning and improving from harm: National adverse events policy 2023](#).

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at info@hqsc.govt.nz.

Please note the Commission publishes some of its Official Information Act responses on its website, after the response is sent. We will not publish your name, address, or contact details.



You are entitled, under section 28(2) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Thomas', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the 'M'.

Dr Martin Thomas
Acting Chief Executive
Health Quality & Safety Commission Te Tāhū Hauora

