

Update for Funded Sector

Planning, Funding and Outcomes

8 October 2024

As you will be aware, there have been changes to the Commissioning function as part of the Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora reset. Below we provide an update on those changes and on work underway in the primary and community care funded sector.

A new Planning, Funding and Outcomes business unit was established on 2 September 2024 and has brought together national commissioning of hospitals, community and mental health services; service improvement and innovation; planning, performance and strategy, and national data and analytics services.

Led by National Director Dr Dale Bramley, the new unit seeks to improve health outcomes for all New Zealanders by using evidence, data insights and clinical advice to plan, fund, monitor and improve nationwide health services.

It has a strong leadership role in national planning and performance against key outcome measures, including health targets, and will provide analytical support to the four regions.

Key national leads in Planning, Funding and Outcomes for community and mental health services are Jason Power, Commissioner Funding and Investment; Dr Debbie Holdsworth, Co-Director for Funding, Communities and Mental Health Services; and Director of Planning and Outcomes Lisa Williams.

Empowering regions and enabling devolution of more authority to regional integrated leadership is a key part of the Health NZ reset. Four regional Deputy Chief Executives have been appointed. Regional Commissioners (previously Regional Wayfinders) now report to the Deputy Chief Executives.

For more information about Dr Dale Bramley and the four regional Chief Executives, see [here](#).

As these changes bed in, we will provide regular updates.

Programme Updates

While these changes to Health NZ are progressing, we continue to advance the important work in the funded sector we jointly share with you. We want to thank you for your ongoing contribution. Our work includes:

Telehealth Service Review

A review of telehealth services is underway as part of the [Primary Care Development Programme](#). This includes a review of telehealth service models, a stocktake of Health NZ-funded community and primary care telehealth services, NTS utilisation data analysis and service user insights. **For more information**, see [Telehealth Service Review – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

Rural Unplanned Urgent Care re-design

Work to re-design rural unplanned and urgent care, including Primary Response in Medical Emergencies (PRIME) is progressing well and aims to provide more equitable access to these services. **For more information** see [Rural Unplanned Urgent Care re-design – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#).

Immunisation

One of the Government's [health targets](#) is improved Immunisation for children – 95% of children fully immunised at 24 months of age. An example of work underway to lift Immunisation rates is supporting pharmacist vaccinators to upskill to whole-of-life authorised vaccinators. **For more Immunisation** news, see [here](#).

Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Plan 2024-2027

Many of you will be interested in the new Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Plan released on 24 September. Read more in the Government's [media release](#) and the plan on our website [here](#).

Peer Support Specialists in Emergency Departments

The first trial of peer support specialists in emergency departments has now commenced at Middlemore Hospital, which is a positive step towards improving outcomes for people presenting to EDs in mental distress. **For more information** about the trial and several other new mental health and addiction initiatives, see the Government's announcement [here](#).

Aged Care Funding and Service Models Review

Some of you may have participated in our extensive stakeholder engagement held throughout May and June 2024 as part of this review. Health NZ heard from more than 2000 people and received more than 10,000 pieces of feedback from aged care services, people who use aged care services and other partners and organisations. A summary document will be shared with stakeholders and further engagement will be carried out as we develop proposals for improvement for our Commissioner, Government agency partners and Ministers to consider. **For more information**, see [Aged Care Funding and Service Models Review](#).

Kahu Taurima: Supporting bereaved whānau

We are proud to announce the establishment of a 13-member Technical Advisory Group, guiding the development of a National Perinatal Bereavement Care Pathway. This initiative marks a significant milestone in supporting whānau who experience perinatal loss, offering them compassionate and culturally responsive care. The pathway, due in March 2025, will help ensure that all whānau receive the support they need during challenging times, especially those from Māori, Pacific, and Indian communities. This work is a core part of the [Kahu Taurima](#) programme, focused on transforming maternity and early years services across Aotearoa.

Mobile oral health clinics and co-designing services for intersex youth

The first new oral health mobile clinic from Budget 22 has been completed for Raukura Hauora o Tanui mobile dental services, thanks to the hard work of our Oral Health team. This is an exciting step in improving access to oral health services for Tamariki and rangatahi, especially through Māori and Pacific-led providers. You can find out more about the mobile health clinic [here](#).

In other news, we have also made strides in supporting children and young people with IVSC (Innate Variation in Sex Characteristics) and their whānau, holding the first co-design sessions with young people for a new peer and psycho-social support network. Both initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to ensuring equitable, community-centred care for all.

Health Targets Implementation Plans

The Minister of Health has released Health NZ's high-level implementation plans on health targets. The high-level implementation plans set out the actions required to achieve the health targets by 2030. **For more information** and to view the implementation plans visit our website [here](#).

Health NZ updates and news

You may like to attend our monthly Stakeholder Virtual Hui/view recordings and/or subscribe to Health NZ's fortnightly stakeholder newsletter, Ruruku. **See** [here](#) to view and subscribe.

Keep an eye on our website and social channels for national and regional news and campaign updates. [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Website](#).