



# Pae ora | healthy futures for all New Zealanders

## Government Policy Statement for Health: 2022–2024

E ngā mātāwaka huri noa, tēnā koutou katoa

Our health sector has strong foundations: a highly skilled and dedicated workforce, engaged and passionate communities, and an ability to work together to get things done when we need to. But we know there are opportunities to make improvements and we need to build a future health system that will perform better for all of us.

For far too long, across different health outcomes, the same groups are consistently under-served and left behind: Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, and those who experience inequity based on their health condition, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, where they live, their income and other factors.

A new health system provides the opportunity to address these longstanding problems and create a system that is Te Tiriti-consistent, equitable, cohesive, and whānau-centred. By doing so, it will be sustainable, resilient, and affordable, ensuring that it is there for future generations and able to cope with future challenges.

Our vision is simple: that all New Zealanders achieve pae ora (healthy futures). This means that people and whānau live longer in good health, have improved health and quality of life, are part of healthy, inclusive and resilient communities, and live in environments that sustain their wellbeing.

The Government Policy Statement outlines the Government's expectations of the health system to put in place the services, initiatives and partnerships to protect, promote and improve health and wellbeing, achieve equity, and provide pae ora.

We will not achieve change overnight: it will require time, investment and all entities and people in our health sector pulling together. This interim Government Policy Statement starts the journey, by setting Government's priorities and expectations for the first two years of the reformed system.

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa

**Andrew Little, Minister of Health**

### **The interim Government Policy Statement directs the new health system**

and sets the priorities, objectives, and expectations for the publicly-funded health system in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It outlines what the Government expects to be delivered and achieved within the health system, as well as how success will be measured, monitored, and reported.

The interim Government Policy Statement focuses on two years—from July 2022 to June 2024—and provides the foundations

for longer-term direction and expected outcomes that will take more time to deliver.

It also sets the expectations for the New Zealand Health Plan, which outlines how different health entities will deliver the Government's priorities and health services to all New Zealanders.

**The full interim Government Policy Statement document can be found on the Ministry of Health website.**



# Key priorities

**The Government Policy Statement has six priority areas to guide the health system and how services are delivered.**

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## Achieving equity in health outcomes

People with different needs and levels of advantage have access to different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Working towards equity in health and wellbeing
- Recognition of the rights and obligations of under-served communities

## Keeping people well in their communities

Community-based prevention, support and treatment services are prioritised, whānau-centred, culturally appropriate and fit with people's lives—close to where they live, work and play. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Improved service delivery across all health services, including responsiveness, digital services, and hospital networks, and identifying and addressing unjustified variation in healthcare
- Health services are not disrupted, and people feel safe accessing care

## Ensuring a financially sustainable health system

Resources are managed and allocated in a way that achieves the best possible levels of population health and equity within available resources and funding, now and in the future. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Change delivered in a way that reduces risk to continuity of care
- Existing priorities and programmes are maintained

## Embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi across the health system

Māori are able to exercise authority over their health and wellbeing and achieve equitable health outcomes in ways that enable Māori to live, thrive and flourish as Māori. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Strengthened Māori leadership and decision-making
- Increased access to kaupapa Māori and whānau-centred services

## Developing the health workforce of the future

Grow and develop a resilient, diverse, and sustainable workforce that can respond to the needs of people and whānau and is representative of the population of Aotearoa New Zealand. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Culturally appropriate services grounded in and framed by mātauranga Māori and Pacific wellbeing approaches
- Impact on the health workforce is minimised, and staff are supported

## Laying the foundations for the success of the future health system

A new culture and ethos, founded on Te Tiriti, will be created to strengthen the focus on prevention, protecting and promoting the wellbeing of people and whānau. In the reformed system this may look like:

- Working collectively and in partnership with communities, and other organisations
- Consumer, whānau and community voices reflected in the system—improving progress towards equity in access, quality of care and outcomes