

Welcome to the October bulletin

NZS 8134: 2021 Ngā paerewa Health and disability services standard

In our last bulletin, we advised that the Minister of Health has approved the NZS 8134:2021 Ngā paerewa Health and disability services standard (Ngā paerewa) for use under the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 and that it will come into effect on 28 February 2022.

We are now in the implementation phase of Ngā paerewa. In this issue, we are giving you a quick update on what we have been up to and what we have planned for the next few months.

We had a great response to our online training sessions in July and August, with excellent attendance. We are now looking at delivering sessions that focus on the specific requirements of different sectors.

The detailed mapping analysis of current standards to Ngā paerewa has also now been published.

The pilot audits against Ngā paerewa have been put on hold due to the necessary COVID-19 response across the country.

Thank you to everyone who recently completed the first of our quarterly check-in surveys. This helps us to understand your preparedness for implementing Ngā paerewa. We are reviewing the feedback from the survey to develop targeted resources designed to address areas where you have requested a bit more support.

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Training sessions

It was great to see so many of you attend the sessions, and we thank you for the feedback and questions raised. We have now held eight sessions: one was an introduction to Ngā paerewa; five covered its six sections; and two sessions looked at Te Tiriti requirements. The sessions have all been recorded and are now [available online](#) with a copy of the slides.

Due to the impact of the recent COVID-19 Delta variant outbreak, we will be unable to run the tailored roadshows as planned. We understand that providers and designated auditing agencies (DAA) are affected at this time. We will instead be publishing pre-recorded sector-specific sessions, so you can watch these at your own convenience. We are currently working with our colleagues in other parts of the Ministry of Health and aim to have these sessions published by the end of November 2021.

Mapping analysis

We completed a mapping analysis of the current standards to Ngā paerewa. These standards are: the NZS 8134:2008 Health and Disability Services Standards (the 2008 Standards), the NZS 8181:2007 Fertility Services Standard, the NZS 8158:2012 Home and Community Support Sector Standard and the Interim Standards for Abortion Services in New Zealand. The detailed mapping analysis highlights what key areas have changed, with the aim of making it easier for providers to determine what they need to focus on as they prepare to implement Ngā paerewa.

The official mapping analysis is now available on [our website](#).

Transition to Ngā paerewa

We are taking a non-punitive approach to transitioning to Ngā paerewa requirements. This means that:

- mapped criteria will continue to be audited as usual and attainment aligned with current audit practice
- for criteria that have been identified as partially mapped, providers will have a 6- to 12-month period to address and evidence compliance
- for criteria that are new or have not been mapped, providers will have a 12- to 18-month period to address and evidence compliance.

Pilot audits update

The pilot audits have been delayed due to the impact of the recent COVID-19 Delta variant outbreak. However, we are making plans to run the pilot under COVID-19 Alert Level 2 or Alert Level 1.

We will run pilot (certification and surveillance) audits with a number of service providers who have upcoming audits in October and November 2021. Each provider's contracted DAA will run an audit against Ngā paerewa. A HealthCERT staff member will observe the audit, map the Ngā paerewa audit result to the 2008 Standards and produce an audit report based on this. The service provider will receive an audit outcome under the 2008 Standards and the current certification process.

We will use the information gathered from the pilots to further inform our transition planning including the determination of a provider's certification period against Ngā paerewa.

Operating matters

COVID-19 guidance update

The COVID-19 Delta variant (Delta variant) has a number of differences compared with earlier iterations of the virus. These differences mean that the Delta variant is a greater threat to the health of individuals who contract it and presents a greater challenge to attempts to contain its spread in an outbreak.

The following have been updated on the Ministry of Health's website in response to the Delta variant:

- guidance at all Alert Levels
- screening form for a person to enter an aged residential care (ARC) facility
- information for visiting ARC facilities
- interNASC transfers for ARC.

For more detail, see this [updated information](#) as well as the guidance on the [use of personal protective equipment in health and disability care settings](#).

Sector matters

COVID-19 Outbreak Response Toolkit for Aged Residential Care

This toolkit is primarily for ARC providers to support local procedures and protocols. It will also inform planning and response for public health units and district health boards that will be involved in the outbreak response. Relationship building and planning should include Māori and iwi health providers. This toolkit defines these roles and those of other stakeholders, which may include professional groups, consumer advisory groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consumer groups, primary health care providers, Pacific health providers and NGOs, and wider emergency management workers.

View [further information and the toolkit](#).

A new governance ecosystem for interRAI needs assessment services

On 15 September 2021, the interRAI governance ecosystem went live with the first meeting of the interRAI Leadership Advisory Board (iLAB). The iLAB replaces the previous interRAI New Zealand Governance Board. It will provide strategic leadership for interRAI assessment services, with a focus on responsiveness to Māori, service performance and demand, clinical excellence, technology, and data governance. These priorities were identified in a review of the interRAI services in 2020. Members of the new iLAB were appointed by Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora | Director-General of Health.

interRAI governance ecosystem

The interRAI governance ecosystem has been designed in response to recommendations following a review of the service design of interRAI services and in anticipation of changes under the Health and Disability System Reforms. The ecosystem comprises two key components – the iLAB and a network of interRAI stakeholders. These two groups will work collaboratively to deliver strategic governance of interRAI assessment services.

The role of the iLAB is to engage with the interRAI network and provide strategic advice to the Ministry of Health, Health New Zealand, the Māori Health Authority, and Central Region's Technical Advisory Services.

The interRAI network will consist of interRAI stakeholder-based oversight groups, subject matter experts and consumer representatives. Their role will be to engage with and provide advice to the iLAB on the focus areas and other related and relevant topics.

The iLAB members are:

Cathy Cooney, MNZM, JP, RN, RM, BA (Hons), FACHSM, FCNA(NZ), MInstD, Director, Kowhai Health Associates (Chair)

Nigel Miller, MBBS, MRCP, FRACP, FRACMA (Deputy Chair)

Karen Evison, Director of Strategy, Planning and Funding, Lakes District Health Board

Eamon Merrick, Senior Lecturer, School of Clinical Science, Auckland University of Technology

Kahli Elvin, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Ranginui Data and Performance Analyst / Māmā Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāruahine, Taranaki

Carolyn Cooper, Managing Director and Lead Nurse, Bupa New Zealand

Ngairu Kerse, General Practice Academic, University of Auckland

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Invitation to submit success stories

We are inviting you to submit your success stories. These can be stories of innovation and remarkable feats in delivering high-quality health and disability services. You could also tell us how your organisation is preparing for the implementation of Ngā paerewa. We will then choose from all submissions one to highlight in our next issue.

Email your stories to us at certification@health.govt.nz.