

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission | Te Hiringa Mahara on 6 March 2024

Date due to MO:	4 March 2024	Action required by:	6 March 2024
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	H2024036608
To:	Hon Matt Dooney, Minister for Mental Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: <input type="checkbox"/> Māori Health Authority: <input type="checkbox"/>		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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Meeting with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission | Te Hiringa Mahara on 6 March 2024

Date due: 4 March 2024

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

Health Report number: H2024036608

Details of meeting: 6 March 2024
8.00am–8.45am, 4.1R EW

Purpose of meeting: This is your regular monthly meeting with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission | Te Hiringa Mahara (the Commission) as Minister for Mental Health. You will be meeting with Hayden Wano, Board Chair, and Karen Orsborn, Chief Executive.

The Commission has provided the following proposed agenda along with a separate briefing paper to support the discussion:

- He Ara Āwhina – system performance measures and dashboard demonstration and link to your priorities
- its current work – rangatahi and youth mental health and wellbeing.

Suggested talking points on these topics are attached as **Appendix A**.

I can be available to attend the meeting to support you, if needed.

Comment: **Background information**

Your last meeting with the Commission was on 22 February 2024 and focussed on its funding and resourcing.

Roles and responsibilities

Multiple organisations monitor mental health and addiction:

- Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora and the Māori Health Authority | Te Aka Whai Ora monitor the services they deliver and commission
- The Ministry monitors system-level and health entity performance
- The Commission has a statutory mandate to independently monitor the mental health and wellbeing of the population, factors that affect and approaches to address mental health and wellbeing (including outside of health), as well as mental health and addiction services.

The Ministry is discussing respective areas of focus with the Commission to support a complementary, non-duplicative mental health and addiction monitoring and accountability approach. For example:

- the Commission is uniquely placed to monitor cross-government contributions to mental wellbeing and can do a deeper analysis of key issues within the system than the Ministry can in its regular monitoring role
- the Commission's independent lens also lends itself to more complex analysis, rather than reporting on inputs, outputs, and expenditure, which falls within health entities' responsibilities.

Items for discussion

The Commission intends to discuss its He Ara Āwhina monitoring dashboard and its ongoing work on youth mental wellbeing with you at this meeting.

He Ara Āwhina monitoring dashboard

The Commission has undertaken annual reviews of the mental health and addiction system and services, using its He Ara Āwhina framework. There is some overlap in the measures within He Ara Āwhina and the measures that the Ministry and Health New Zealand use in our respective monitoring roles; however the breadth of measures in the He Ara Āwhina framework is such that an annual cadence is more appropriate, rather than our more frequent quarterly monitoring. The Ministry and Health New Zealand prioritise key measures to monitor on a quarterly basis [HR2024035988 refers].

The Commission has begun publishing data through its online dashboard, which is a helpful tool for making mental health and addiction data more accessible to the public.

The Ministry and Health New Zealand will have key roles in monitoring and reporting against your confirmed mental health and addiction targets. The Commission should not duplicate these efforts, but there may be opportunities for the Commission to focus on balancing measures from within He Ara Āwhina to complement the targets.

Focus on youth wellbeing

The Commission has taken a strong focus on youth wellbeing in 2023, including publishing a report titled *Young people speak out about Wellbeing: An insights report into the Wellbeing of Rangatahi Māori and other Young People in Aotearoa*. This included engagement with young people but not quantitative data analysis.

The work to develop a youth-specific dataset in He Ara Āwhina will be complementary to the Commission's focus, and to our work to respond to your priorities for youth wellbeing. This includes responding to the recent report of the Auditor-General on how well government understands and responds to youth mental health needs.

Both discussion items are useful contributions to system-level monitoring and taken together are a good example of how the Commission can make a valuable contribution within its existing resourcing.



Robyn Shearer

Deputy Director-General

Clinical, Community and Mental Health | Te Pou Whakakaha

Date: 4 March 2024

PROACTIVELY RELEASED