



MINISTRY OF HEALTH



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government



Government Policy Statement on Health – 2024 to 2027



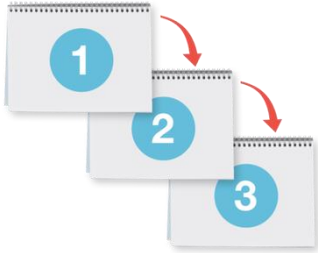
Published: November 2024

What you will find in here

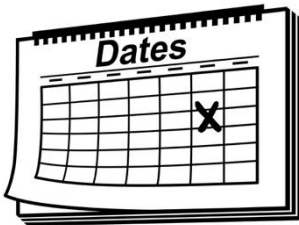
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What is in this document



This Easy Read document is from **Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health.**



Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health is the part of the government in charge of the **health system.**

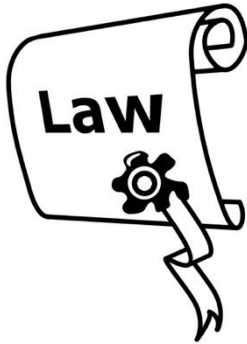


The **health system** is all the people / organisations that work together to make healthcare happen like:

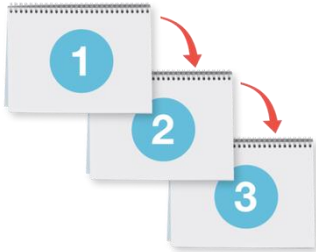
- doctors
- hospitals
- pharmacies / chemists.



When you see the words **we / our** in this document it means **Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health**.



The law says we have to write a **Government Policy Statement** on health every 3 years.



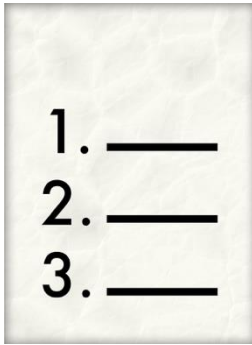
A **Government Policy Statement** says what the Government plans to do in the years to come.



This Government Policy Statement is about what we plan for the health system in the next 3 years.

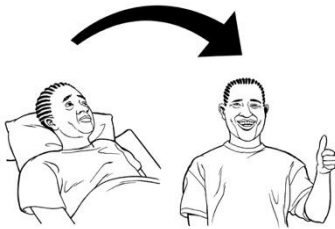


It talks about our **priorities** for making better health **outcomes** for everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Priorities are the:

- most important things
- things that need to be done first.

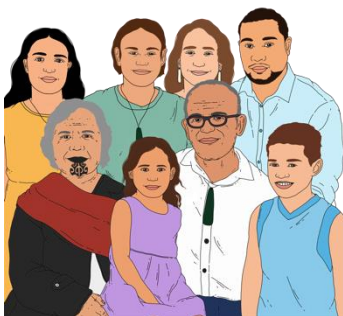


Outcomes are things that happen when work has been done.

For example an outcome might be people get better after medical treatment.



It is important to make better health outcomes for people with the most health needs like:



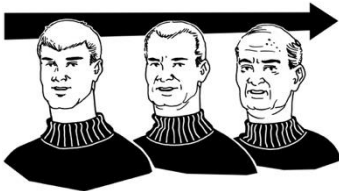
- disabled people
- Māori
- Pacific peoples.

Vision



Vision means:

- the things we want to happen in the time / years to come
- what we will do to make those things happen.



We want everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand to:

- live longer
- have a better **quality of life**.



Quality of life is if you:

- feel well
- can enjoy your life.





We want to make sure everyone can get the healthcare they need.



We also want to make sure no one has to wait too long to get healthcare.



We need to make sure we have enough healthcare workers.



We also need to make sure we have the right health **infrastructure**.



Here **infrastructure** means all the things the health system needs to work well like:

- hospital buildings
- computer systems.

Priorities

5

There are 5 priorities for the health system in the Government Policy Statement.

Priority 1: Access



Here **access** means being able to use something.



Access can be about:

- where / when things are
- if something meets your needs.



We want to make sure everyone has the same access to healthcare no matter where they live.



We plan to give people more choices for **primary and community healthcare**.



Primary and community healthcare means healthcare that is not in a hospital like seeing your usual doctor / GP.

It is the kind of healthcare people use most often.



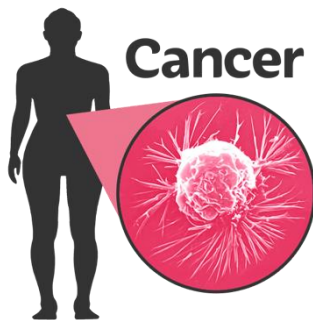
We plan to find ways to give people healthcare closer to where they live.



We also plan to make it easier for people to access **online health services**.



Online health services means healthcare you can get over the internet like having a video call with your doctor.



Cancer

We plan to make **cancer screening** better.

Cancer screening means tests to find people who have a higher chance of getting / having **cancer**.



Cancer is a disease that can make people very sick.

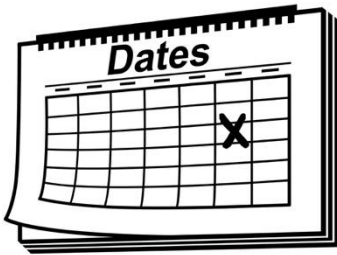


We also plan to make it faster for people to get the medicine they need.



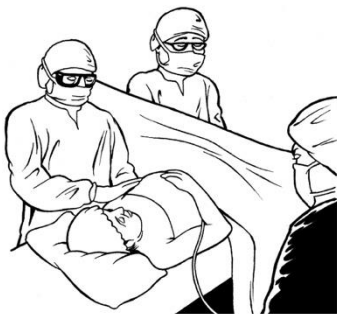
Priority 2: Timeliness

Timeliness means things happening at the right time.



We want people to get healthcare quickly.

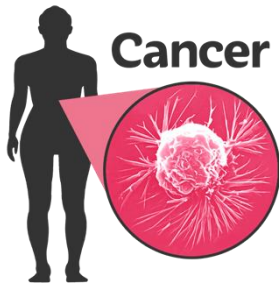
We plan to have shorter waiting times for:



- appointments
- operations
- emergency care.



We plan to make it faster for people to get primary and community healthcare.



We also plan to make sure people with cancer get treated quickly.

Priority 3: Quality



Quality means how good something is.



We want to make sure healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand is:

- safe
- easy to get
- always getting better.



We will keep checking to make sure healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand is good enough.



We will use new ways to do **research** about how healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand is working.



Research is when we:

- look at what things have happened
- try to find ways to do things better.



We will keep looking for ways to make healthcare better.

Priority 4: Workforce



Workforce means everyone who works in healthcare.



We want to make sure the people who work in healthcare can take good care of all sorts of people.



We also want to make sure healthcare workers get lots of chances to learn new things.



We plan to give better training to people who want to work in healthcare.



We plan to show our workforce we think they are important.



We plan to find more people to work in healthcare.

Priority 5: Infrastructure



We want to make sure the health system meets the needs of everyone:

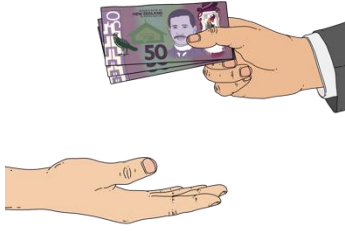
- now
- in years to come.



We will make a **long-term** plan for healthcare infrastructure in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Long-term means for many years to come.



We will make a plan for how much money the Government will spend on healthcare.

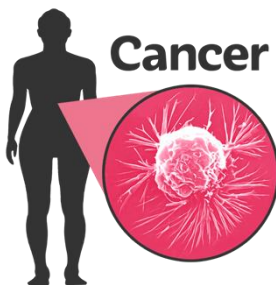


We will use **digital tools** to make the health system easier to run.



Digital tools are things like:

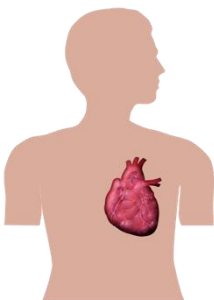
- computers
- video calls
- online information.



Cancer

The main things these priorities are for are:

- cancer
- heart disease
- lung disease



These priorities are also for:



- diabetes which is problems with your blood sugar

mental health.



Mental health is how you think / feel in your mind.

We are going to focus on things that support people to stay well like:

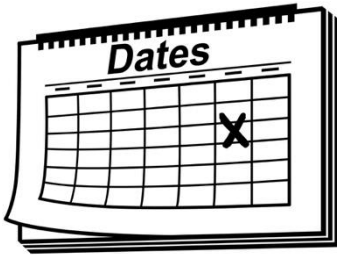
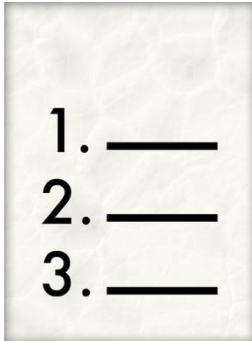


- not drinking too much alcohol
- stopping smoking
- eating healthy food
- getting enough exercise.



We need to make sure we do not spend more money than we have

Targets



Targets are the things we aim to do.

Targets are about details like:

- numbers
- dates.

5

The Government has 5 targets for health.

It also has 5 targets for:

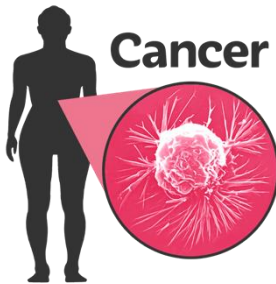
- mental health
- **addiction.**





Addiction means not being able to stop yourself using things like:

- drugs
- alcohol.



Health targets

Almost everyone who has cancer should get treatment less than 1 month after their doctor says what treatment they need.



Almost all children should be **fully immunised** when they are 2 years old.



Fully immunised means someone has had all the **vaccines** they need.



A **vaccine** is a medicine that can keep you safe from getting sick.



Almost all people who go to the **emergency** department of a hospital should be there for less than 6 hours before they:

- get the care they need
- get moved to another hospital / part of the hospital.

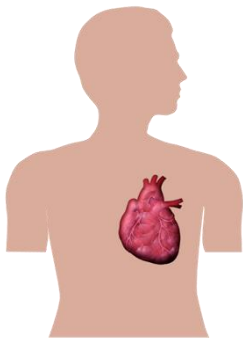


An **emergency** is when something serious happens that means people need to act quickly to stay safe.

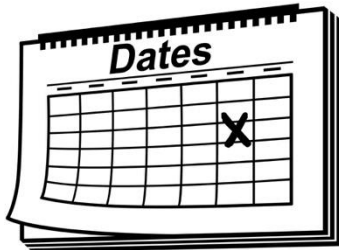


Almost everyone who needs to see a **specialist** should get an appointment in less than 4 months.

A **specialist** is someone who knows a lot about 1 thing.



For example if you have a problem with your heart you might see a doctor who is a heart specialist.



Almost all people who need treatment that is not an emergency should have to wait less than 4 months.

Mental health / addiction targets



Most people should have to wait less than 3 weeks to get mental health / addiction services.



Most people should be able to get support from the **Access and Choice programme** in less than 1 week.



The **Access and Choice programme** gives support to people who have mental health / addiction problems that are not too bad.



We will train more than 5 hundred mental health / addiction workers every year.



Most people who go to a hospital emergency department for mental health / addiction problems should be there for less than 6 hours before they:



- get the care they need
- get moved to another hospital / part of the hospital.



We will put 1 quarter of the money the Government is spending on mental health / addiction into:



- **prevention**
- giving people treatment before their problems get too big.



Prevention means stopping something from happening.

More information



You can find out more about Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health on our **website** at:



<https://www.health.govt.nz>



You can read the full Government Policy Statement at this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n744sbn>



These websites are **not** in Easy Read.



This information has been written by Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health.



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