

People Pānui

Issue 5 - February 2022

Health system reform
news and updates for the
health workforce.

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Ngā matihere nui o tēnei tau hou 2022 – Welcome to 2022

Kei ngā tōpito katoa o te motu, tēnā koutou katoa.
Kia ora, and welcome.

Already we're a month into 2022 and closer to structural changes to our health system - which will enable longstanding inequity to be addressed - coming into effect.

Our vision for the future of health in Aotearoa New Zealand goes well beyond these structural changes and will take time to be fully realised. To get there, we are focused on the creation of new entities, including Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority, and engaging with Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards to support local leadership and elevate the voice of whānau. These are fundamental changes that need to happen to create a system that is connected, consistent, equitable and focused on the people it is there to serve.

We made good progress in 2021, including engaging with the health workforce through a national roadshow. It was great to have the opportunity to hear from so many of you about your thoughts and views on the health reforms, and what you hope they can achieve. We appreciated your feedback, suggestions and thoughts on how the system can be strengthened moving forward.

Speaking of progress, it is fantastic to have Fepulea'i Margie Apa and Riana Manuel on board as the new Chief Executives of interim Health New Zealand and the interim Māori Health Authority, respectively. Both have extensive experience and exemplary leadership skills, which will be essential in creating a health system New Zealanders need and deserve. Margie and Riana were officially welcomed on Monday, and you can expect to hear from both of them soon.

The next six months will be busy leading up to 1 July, when the new health system officially comes into effect and Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority become permanent entities.

We appreciate the challenge that omicron presents and the pressure you are all under. And we want to reiterate that this reform is being undertaken with an underlying principle of minimising disruption to the health workforce. We want you to continue to focus on providing the care that New Zealanders need and protecting whānau health and safety as we continue to respond to COVID-19.

We look forward to updating you on our progress. In the meantime, keep up the great work you're all doing and stay safe.

Hēio anō, noho ora mai koutou ko ōu whānau i tēnei wā.
Nā mātau me ngā mihi nui,



Sharon Shea,
co-Chair, interim
Māori Health
Authority



Tipa Mahuta,
co-Chair, interim
Māori Health
Authority



Rob Campbell,
Chair, interim
Health
New Zealand

Where to get info

As our work to progress the health reform has gathered momentum, so too has the range of information we have available on what's happening.

It's great that you're already reading the People Pānui, which is our regular newsletter especially for members of the health workforce. To get this People Pānui direct to your email inbox, simply sign up at the Future of Health website.

The website also has a whole range of other useful information, including:

- Background to the health reform
- Details of what's changing, including more information about Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority
- Answers to questions that you, the health workforce, have asked about the reform
- Videos from the Minister of Health

Visit the website at www.futureofhealth.govt.nz

Our progress so far

In March of 2021, the Government announced the case for changing the health system following an extensive review of the Health and Disability system. A month later the vision for the future health system was outlined.

Since then, we've made substantial progress in preparing for the move to the new system from 1 July 2022.



Finalised the key aspects of the future health system



Supported the design of a framework that will help health entities to meaningfully engage with people using the health system



Drafted and supported the introduction of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill



Established the two interim entities Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority and supported the appointment of Boards and Chief Executives



Hosted a national roadshow to engage with the health sector, reaching more than 3,800 people



Confirmed the areas where the first locality prototypes are likely to be established

2021 national roadshow reaches health workforce

Over the last few months of 2021 key members of the Health Reform team, along with newly appointed Board Chairs and members, took to the 'road' to meet with people across the health workforce.

A total of 20 sessions were held, some virtually only regrettably, all with the purpose of giving people in the health sector an opportunity to hear about the work underway to support the reform and ask any burning questions.

Martin Hefford, who was Acting Chief Executive of interim Health New Zealand at the time of the roadshow, said it was fantastic to hear directly from people embedded within the health system.

"This reform is all about people and it won't be successful if those who are front and centre of delivering health services don't understand, or aren't aware, of what's happening," Martin said.

"The roadshow was a great way for us to get out and speak to those people directly. There were lots of questions about the plans for moving to the new system and that's given us valuable insight about people's key areas of interest."

There will be more opportunities for people to hear about what's happening with the reform over the coming months, leading up to 1 July when the new system officially comes into effect.



20
Sessions held

+3,800
People engaged

What attendees thought

"From data issues to localities to Iwi Māori Partnership Boards. It's a big job. The challenge is in the challenge to meet the challenge!"

"It was excellent. I love the focus on communities and localities and the shifts."

"It was a useful session. We have known for a while the current system does not deliver what is needed."



Shifting the system – providing comprehensive care in local communities

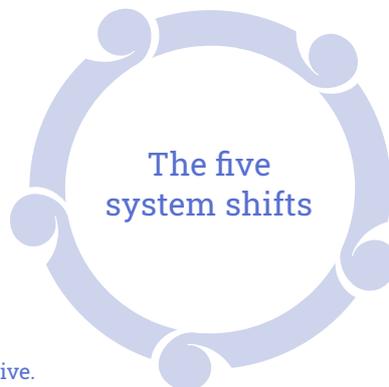
To achieve our vision for a transformed health system, there are five key areas where things will change substantially. The sum of this change will be a health system with people at the centre.

Over recent editions of the People Pānui we've been exploring each of these five key areas in detail.

1 The health system will reinforce Te Tiriti principles and obligations.

2 All people will be able to access a comprehensive range of support in their local communities to help them stay well.

3 Everyone will have equitable access to high quality emergency and specialist care when they need it, wherever they live.



4 Digital services will provide more people with the care they need in their homes and communities.

5 Health and care workers will be valued and well-trained for the future health system.

This edition, we look at system shift two, the area focused on giving people access to a comprehensive range of support in their local communities to help them stay well.

It's well known that, for many people, getting help for health-related needs sooner can prevent more serious issues down the line. In addition, the vision for the future health system recognises that health and wellbeing is impacted by a range of factors, such as access to housing and employment.

A key part of the new health system will be a greater range of local services available in all areas, designed around the holistic needs of communities.

Services will work together to improve population health – the term used to describe the prevention of illnesses and improving the health and wellbeing of local communities, considering all aspects of health and the things that determine wellbeing, like whether people are working and their current living conditions.

People and whānau will be empowered to better manage their own health and wellbeing and remain independent and connected, through information, advice, community support and targeted services.

Health services will reach out into the community to support people at different stages of their lives. When people do need help, services will be provided in a way that suits what that person needs and prefers.

The localities concept is a key part of making this shift towards comprehensive care in the community. The idea is that different care and support providers will collaborate within a local area, working across sectors and organisations, to ensure people get the help they need to stay well – whether that's a dedicated health service or other social support.

You can find out more about localities by [watching the latest webinar](#) hosted by the Public Service Association.

Health workers hear the latest on localities

The Health Reform Transition Unit has teamed up with the Public Service Association (PSA) on a webinar series dedicated to the reform.

In the latest webinar, Co-Director of the Localities workstream Helen Parker delved into the locality concept, which will be a new way of planning, commissioning and delivering health services.

Andrea Fromm, Senior Advisor Policy and Strategy at the PSA, said it was important its members understood the changes.

“We also want to ensure that our members’ perspectives are heard and they can ask questions of the people involved in designing the future of health in New Zealand.”

The webinar series has included events focused on the case for change, the New Zealand Health Charter and New Zealand Health Plan, and the latest on localities.

All three are available on the [Public Service Association's YouTube channel](#).



PSA members discuss/share their views on the health reforms with the Transition Unit.

Your areas of interest

As we've headed around the motu talking to people working in the health sector, we've gotten a good feel for the key areas of interest around the reform.

In this edition, we share some information about what consideration is being given to climate change.

Climate change

Earlier last year, the Director of the Health Reform Transition Unit invited the organisers of the fourth Sustainable Healthcare and Climate Health Forum to present a plan for how the health sector could transition to a Zero Carbon status.

The group presented two papers and as a result, a small working group was established to inform the interim Boards of Health NZ and the Māori Health Authority of their options in this area.

There are significant opportunities to improve population health and promote equity through carbon reduction. For example, a number of smaller locations are diverting hospital food waste from the tip into compost that can be used in school and community gardens. This not only avoids the waste levy charge and greenhouse gas emissions; it also creates benefits for the community including jobs and educational opportunities. The end result is gardens generating nutritious and readily accessible food for the community to enjoy.

Incoming Chief Executives welcomed



Fepulea'i Margie Apa, Chief Executive of interim Health New Zealand, and Riana Manuel, Chief Executive of the interim Māori Health Authority, were officially welcome to their roles on Monday.

Hon Peeni Henare and Hon Aupito William Sio joined leaders and staff from the Transition Unit, Ministry of Health and the new health agencies in welcoming Riana Manuel, CE interim Māori Health Authority, and Fepulea'i Margie Apa, CE interim Health New Zealand, to their new roles.

Speakers included Minister Sio, Justice Jo Williams, Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira, Muru Maipi along with interim Māori Health Authority Board Co-chairs Sharon Shea and Tipa Mahuta, and interim Health New Zealand Chair Rob Campbell at the Mihi Whakataua, which was held as a mixed in-person and online event.