

In confidence

Office of the Minister of Health

Chair, Cabinet Priorities Committee

## **EXPANDING ACCESS AND CHOICE OF PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SUPPORT: AUGUST 2019 PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Proposal**

1. This paper provides an update on progress as at the end of August 2019 on implementing the Budget 2019 initiative to expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support.

### **Background**

2. Through the 2019 Wellbeing Budget, this Government invested \$455 million over four years to expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction responses nationally. The intent of this initiative is to ensure New Zealanders will be able to access free and immediate support that most suits their needs, where they live and at a time and place that suits them.

### **August 2019 progress update**

3. Of the \$48 million available for expenditure in the current financial year, approximately \$12 million of investment has now been committed. This initial investment will:
  - 3.1. sustain integrated primary mental health and addiction services in 22 general practice sites across seven district health board regions, providing access to services for an enrolled population of over 170,000 people
  - 3.2. enable continued support for whānau in Tairāwhiti through Te Kuwatawata, a programme grounded in mātauranga Māori (time-honoured Māori knowledge) that helps over 1,200 whānau each year
  - 3.3. begin to develop a diverse and skilled workforce through improving support for Māori and Pacific students pursuing careers in mental health and addiction, expanding mental health and addiction literacy programmes and enabling existing health practitioners to develop their skills and knowledge
  - 3.4. lift the Ministry of Health's capability and capacity to better partner with Māori and to incorporate the voices of those with lived experience into the rollout of this initiative.
4. The A3 attached to this paper provides further information about the implementation milestones achieved, and investment committed, as at the end of August 2019.

## Next steps

5. Over the coming months it will be important to maintain momentum in rolling out enhanced primary mental health and addiction responses. This will include work to:
  - 5.1. engage with Māori, and with Pacific communities, to begin to design responses that work better for whānau, families and communities
  - 5.2. release a request for proposals to continue to expand access to primary mental health and addiction support through general practice settings.
  - 5.3. engage with key stakeholders including young people to begin to design responses that work better for youth and their whānau, and explore opportunities to support existing youth-friendly services.
6. Given the scale of investment and the widespread public interest, I intend to provide you with regular progress updates on implementation of this initiative.

## Consultation

7. The Treasury and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have been consulted on the development of this paper.

## Financial Implications and Legislative Implications

8. This paper has no financial implications or legislative implications.

## Human Rights, Gender Implications and Disability Perspective

9. This has no implications for human rights, gender issues or disabled people.

## Publicity

10. Announcements about initial service delivery investment are scheduled for Sunday 8 September 2019, with further announcements planned in the coming weeks.

## Proactive Release

11. Proactive release of this paper will be delayed until announcements about the initial investment have been made. Proactive release will be subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

The Minister of Health recommends that the Committee:

1. **note** the update on implementing the Budget 2019 initiative to expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support provided in this paper.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr David Clark

Minister of Health