



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Managing and Measuring the Health and Disability System

Portfolio                      Health

On 9 December 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that in May 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee invited the Minister of Health to further consider measures to support reporting on key priority areas for health and disability services and to report back in due course [SWC-19-MIN-0059];
- 2        **noted** that the proposal in the paper under CAB-19-SUB-0664 includes measures to drive improvement in the five priority areas for the health system: “Improving child wellbeing”, “Improving mental wellbeing”, “Improving wellbeing through prevention”, “Strong and equitable health and disability system”, and “Primary health care”;
- 3        **noted** that the previous six national health targets have been phased out because they lack an overall coherent framework, some of the targets promote undesirable behaviours and encourage gaming, and because they gave only a partial view of New Zealanders’ experience of healthcare;
- 4        **agreed** to a new measurement framework’s approach of:
  - 4.1      the government setting the priorities for the health system;
  - 4.2      the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC), in consultation with the Ministry of Health, developing appropriate high-level measures;
  - 4.3      local providers working with local consumers to agree with the HQSC and the Ministry of Health on what local actions are needed to contribute to the high-level goals;
  - 4.4      monitoring and publicly reporting on local contributions made to the national high level goals by local actions;
- 5        **agreed** that the proposed approach mitigates undesirable consequences of health system measurement through establishing shared accountability for system performance, better buy-in from health service providers in system improvement initiatives, and establishing “check” measures to ensure that progress against measures of health system goals are not achieved at the expense of other important health outcomes;

- 6 **authorised** the Minister of Health, taking into account feedback at Cabinet, to finalise the following proposed set of high-level “impact” measures, following testing with health sector experts:
- 6.1 immunisation rates for children up to two years old (Improving child wellbeing);
  - 6.2 ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations for children, age range 0-4 (Improving child wellbeing);
  - 6.3 access to primary mental health services (Improving mental wellbeing) – in development;
  - 6.4 under 20s able to access specialist mental health or addiction services within 3 weeks of referral (Improving mental wellbeing);
  - 6.5 amenable mortality excluding coronial cases (Improving wellbeing through prevention) – in development;
  - 6.6 participation in the national bowel screening programme (Improving wellbeing through prevention);
  - 6.7 acute bed-day rate (Strong and equitable public health system);
  - 6.8 access to planned care (volumes) (Strong and equitable public health system);
  - 6.9 self-reported unmet need in primary care (Primary health care);
  - 6.10 people report being treated with kindness and respect (Primary health care);
- 7 **agreed** to publish the finalised set of “impact” measures from the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year;
- 8 **authorised** the Minister of Health to finalise the lower levels of the framework, on advice from the HQSC, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, following development with stakeholders;
- 9 **noted** that:
- 9.1 there is an ongoing work programme on District Health Board (DHB) financial sustainability, including regular financial monitoring of DHB performance as part of a ‘balanced scorecard’ that is discussed with individual DHB Chairs and Chief Executives;
  - 9.2 DHB financial results are published monthly as part of overall accountability;
  - 9.3 the companion paper entitled *Plan for Budget 2019 DHB Sustainability Funding* outlines a plan to lift overall DHB financial performance [CAB-19-SUB-0666].

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health

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