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| FACTSHEET: ADVANCED EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY CARE NURSES | March 2025 |

**Description:**

This initiative will provide funding to primary care nurses and their employers to encourage more primary care nurses to upskill and pursue advanced education, including nurse prescriber training.  Up to 120 primary care nurses will be funded through advanced education, including nurse prescriber training.

# Expected benefits:

* Nurses undertaking advanced education will be able contribute even more to health care in communities.
* Nurse prescribers can prescribe medicines for common and long-term conditions.
* This makes it easier for New Zealanders to get the medicines they need, faster. It also provides better continuity of care for patients and contributes to shorter wait times.
* Better professional pathways for nurses makes primary care a more attractive place to work.

# Facts and figures:

* This initiative will cost $21.600 million over four years.
* Up to 120 primary care nurses will be funded through advanced education, including nurse prescriber training. The funding received will be dependent on the qualification pursued, and it will be capped at a cost of $45,000 per nurse.
* Nursing is New Zealand’s single biggest health workforce. Health New Zealand’s Health Workforce Plan 2024 notes that 78,703 nurses had Annual Practising Certificates in March 2024. But there are shortages in some areas and the Health Workforce Plan notes the need for more nurses to be used to their potential in primary and community care.
* Nursing Council of New Zealand statistics show 2376 nurses had some form of prescribing rights, as of December 2024. This was 15% higher than the same time the previous year.