

# **FACTSHEET: FUNDING TO TRAIN ADDITIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS**

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March 2025

## **Description:**

This initiative provides for training 25 more doctors each year across the medical schools in Otago and Auckland, beginning in 2026.

## **Expected benefits:**

- More New Zealand-trained doctors able to serve the needs of our communities.
- More doctors will be entering the health workforce from 2031, helping reduce New Zealanders' wait times for treatment.
- This helps reduce New Zealand's reliance on overseas-trained doctors.

## **Facts and figures:**

- This initiative will support 25 additional funded places a year from 2026 across the University of Auckland and University of Otago.
- This means that the number of funded places will increase from 614 to 639 a year, beginning in 2026.
- The current 614 placements are based in University of Auckland (302) and University of Otago (312).
- This is in addition to the increases made in 2024 (50 places) and in 2025 (25 places).
- It usually takes six years to complete a degree in medicine in New Zealand.
- Health New Zealand's Health Workforce Plan estimates New Zealand's health system will need 3450 extra doctors by 2033 if current demand continues.