

# **FACTSHEET: GRADUATE DOCTORS PRIMARY CARE PATHWAY**

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March 2025

## **Description:**

This new initiative provides 50 full-year placements in primary care a year for New Zealand-trained medical graduates, giving them greater exposure to primary care settings. This funding will go toward supporting providers, clinical supervision, and coordination costs.

## **Expected benefits:**

- Family doctors (GPs) play an important role in helping New Zealanders to stay well and reduce demand for specialist services. This investment helps grow this workforce.
- Graduate doctors who are interested in primary care will be given an opportunity early in their careers to follow that interest. Most of their time will be spent in primary care providers, instead of hospitals.
- Placements in primary care settings mean doctors connect into those communities, can quickly put their skills to use, and are more likely to stay in those settings.
- Primary and community health care plays a critical role in people's health by preventing illness, treating disease early and reducing the impact of long-term conditions.
- Keeping people well improves their quality of life and reduces the pressure on our hospitals.

## **Facts and figures:**

- This initiative will cost \$23.275 million over four years.
- One in four adults (25.7%) and one in five children (18.5%) reported 'time taken to get an appointment was too long' as a barrier to visiting the GP, according to the latest New Zealand Health Survey.
- A Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners report released in March 2023 found up to one-third of New Zealand's GPs planned to retire in the next 5 years.
- Health New Zealand's Health Workforce Plan estimates New Zealand's health system will need 3450 extra doctors to meet current levels of demand by 2033 if nothing changes.