

FACTSHEET: PRIMARY CARE FUNDING BOOST

March 2025

Description:

Extra funding of \$95 million per year will be made available from July 2025 for general practices to improve access to their services, provide more specialist treatment to patients, and increase delivery against a set of key health targets. This funding will incentivise general practices to provide more services, and improve access to primary care appointments for New Zealanders and reduce cost growth in the hospital sector.

This is in addition to the capitation funding (a population-based funding formula) increase that general practice receives annually.

Expected benefits:

- New Zealanders will find it easier to get appointments when they need them, because general practices will take concrete steps to improve access. This might include things like extended opening hours, access via e-consults, and same day appointments for urgent care needs.
- Patients will get better care for long-term conditions, which means they are less likely to need to go to hospital in the future.
- Funding for outcomes that support Government priorities and targets will help improve childhood immunisation rates and support earlier detection and better treatment of cancers.
- The initiative complements a range of others being announced to lift primary care capacity and capability and change models of care, which together will help shift the dial and improve the timeliness and quality of care New Zealanders receive.

Facts and figures:

- This initiative will cost \$285 million over three years.
- Around 95% of New Zealanders are enrolled with a general practice, and GP teams (including urgent care teams) deliver 24 million 'patient encounters' a year, compared with 1.4 million ED visits and one million outpatient visits a year.
- The latest New Zealand Health Survey found 25.7% of adult New Zealanders reported being unable to access their GP in a timely manner and 18.5% of children experienced difficulty accessing GP services.