

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the SingHealth delegation

Date due to MO:	30 July 2024	Action required by:	N/A
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	H2024047229
To:	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Robyn Shearer	Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health - Te Pou Whakakaha	s 9(2)(a)
Martin Chadwick	Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Clinical, Community and Mental Health - Te Pou Whakakaha	s 9(2)(a)

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Date due: 30 July 2024

To: Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Health Report number:** H2024047229

Details of meeting: Thursday 1 August, 4.00pm to 4.30am
6.6, Executive Wing, Parliament

Attendees:

- Professor Kenneth Kwek, Chief Executive Officer SingHealth
- Associate Professor Tan Hiang Khoo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer SingHealth (Future Health System)
- Associate Professor Ruban Poopalalingam, Chairman, Medical Board
- Ms Esther Lim Li Ping, Chief Allied Health Professional
- Ms Ng Hong Yen, Chief Pharmacist

Please refer to **Appendix 1** for information on SingHealth meeting attendees.

Official Representatives: Dr Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer at the Ministry of Health will attend this meeting in person.

Lauren Hancock, Clinical Principal Advisor, Allied Health at the Ministry of Health will attend this meeting in person.

Purpose of meeting This is an introductory meeting with the SingHealth delegation which is visiting New Zealand from 29 July – 2 August. They will be travelling to several locations across the North Island and will be in Wellington from 1-2 August.

Comment: This aide-mémoire discloses all relevant information.


Context

- New Zealand highly values the relationship with Singapore. Prime Minister Luxon and Prime Minister Lee recently committed to strengthening cooperation under the Singapore-New Zealand Enhanced Partnership and agreed to elevate the relationship by the end of 2025.
- New Zealand's bilateral health relationship with Singapore has continued following the COVID-19 response.
- The Global Health group in the Ministry of Health coordinates many of these engagements, including linking the Singapore Ministry of Health (and related Health entities) to a broad range of subject matter experts within the New Zealand health system. Examples of our close engagement include:
 - sharing information and positions during 18 months of negotiations on the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and the 'Pandemic Treaty' negotiations
 - our Director-General met with the Singapore delegation at the World Health Assembly in May
 - the Deputy Director-General, Public Health Authority, had a one-day programme with the interim Communicable Disease Agency in Singapore, in May 2024.

Background on this visit from SingHealth

- Dr Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer at the Ministry of Health was the keynote speaker at the Singapore Allied Health Conference 2021, and in August 2022, a manager from SingHealth reached out to Dr Chadwick to organise a visit for a delegation from the Allied Health Office.
- SingHealth is the largest hospital network in Singapore. They are sending a delegation of 13 representatives to New Zealand to learn about our health system, with a focus on integration of allied health professions into hospital and community care settings.
- The stated learning outcomes of the delegation include:
 - Workload
 - Strategies to retain workforce – Singapore has high levels of attrition and an ageing workforce
 - Transdisciplinary models of care within hospital and community settings
 - How to balance mindset shifts from traditional to transdisciplinary models of care

- Co-design of programmes with patients and empowering patients to help themselves
- The New Zealand capitation model
- Role of allied health in preventative care.
- During their visit to New Zealand the delegation will visit and meet with representatives from:
 - North Shore Hospital
 - Auckland City Hospital
 - Tauranga Hospital
 - Ngā Pou Mana – Tangata Whenua Allied Health Association
 - Medwise Ltd.
 - Ministry of Health
 - Public Health Agency
 - Collaborative Aotearoa
 - ACC.
- Please refer to Appendix 1 for information on SingHealth meeting attendees.
- Talking points are attached as Appendix 2.
- The full programme for SingHealth's visit to New Zealand is attached as Appendix 3 for your reference.


Robyn Shearer
Deputy Director-General

**Clinical, Community and Mental Health |
Te Pou Whakakaha**

Date: 30 July 2024

Appendix 1 - Attendees

SingHealth Delegation

Professor Kenneth Kwek, Chief Executive Officer

Professor Kenneth Kwek has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Singapore General Hospital (SGH) since 2017. His expertise lies in obstetrics, particularly in Maternal Fetal Medicine, focusing on high-risk pregnancies.

Professor Kwek is passionate about improving the quality of patient care and harnessing process re-engineering, innovation and technology to enhance the safety and reliability of clinical care and patient outcomes, while also elevating the experience for patients and healthcare staff.



Associate Professor Tan Hiang Khoon, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Future Health System)

Associate Professor Tan Hiang Khoon is the Director of SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, Group Director of SingHealth's International Collaboration Office, and Deputy CEO of Future Health Systems at Singapore General Hospital (SGH). Associate Professor Tan specializes in complex head and neck cancers and has pioneered endoscopic and robotic head and neck surgery in Singapore. A/Prof Tan is devoted to Global Health, establishing a Global Surgery Programme, co-led a project for healthcare quality assurance in Sri Lanka and initiated a pan-Asia surgical leaders' network to study COVID-19's impact on surgical health systems.



Associate Professor Ruban Poopalalingam, Chairman, Medical Board

Associate Professor Ruban Poopalalingam is the Chairman Medical Board (CMB) of Singapore General Hospital, and the Deputy Group Chairman Medical Board in SingHealth. He is Senior Consultant of Division of Anaesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Singapore General Hospital and a member of the cardiothoracic anaesthesia service at the National Heart Centre.



Ms Esther Lim Li Ping, Chief Allied Health Professional

Esther is currently Chief Allied Health Professional (CAHP) at Singapore General Hospital (SGH). In SingHealth, she is Group Chief Allied Health Professional overseeing Workforce Planning at Group Allied Health and is the Director for the SingHealth Centre for Person-Centred Care (CPCC). She oversees the strategy and planning, staff engagement and service transformation in her role as CAHP to enhance the attraction, retention, recognition and well-being of Allied Health Professionals, as well as providing oversight for development and professional practice of all Allied Health staff in SGH. In the CPCC, Esther drives person-centred care within and across the health and social sectors, with the goal of delivering health care that truly matters to patients. She is also the first Social Worker and Allied Health Professional to be awarded the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship.



Ms Ng Hong Yen, Chief Pharmacist

Hong Yen is currently Chief Pharmacist of Singapore General Hospital, overseeing the Division of Pharmacy. She also holds the appointment of Chief Pharmacist (Academic Medicine) at the SingHealth Group Pharmacy Office, driving Research and Education to advance clinical care and practice. Hong Yen is also practising as a Specialist Pharmacist in Oncology accredited by the Ministry of Health Singapore, and a certified Collaborative Prescriber in the area of Haematology and Haematopoietic Cell Transplantation.



Appendix 2 - Talking points

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