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12 December 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2025073304

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 26 September 2025 for information regarding targeted consultation. You requested:

"I am requesting details of any "targeted consultations" undertaken by either agency over the last 9 months.

By targeted consultation I mean where a consultation was undertaken with a pre-selected group of people and/or agencies by either agency.

For each of those consultations I would like to know what people/groups were approached and who responded.

I would like any details available on the outcome of the consultation and subsequent feedback to those consulted.

I would also like any details on how it is decided who will be consulted.

I am interested in the subject of 'targeted consultation' because it has been raised with me that such consultation has become more common with the health and disabilities services sector and it is perceived by some in the sector to be undemocratic. I think there is a strong public interest in understanding how, why and when this consulting tool is used."

On 30 September 2025, you wrote to the Ministry to remove this part of your request:

I would also like any details on how it is decided who will be consulted.

Targeted consultation is a mechanism for consulting with previously identified interested parties about ongoing work within the Ministry. This is distinct from broader public consultation, where the Ministry would seek submissions from the public on various matters, and serves a different purpose. Consultation with specific identified stakeholders is guided by the principles that are set out by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and the Public Service Commission (PSC), and are focussed on proportionality, transparency, and early engagement.

Cabinet Office Circular CO (24) 7 explains that external consultation is a key component of high-quality impact analysis, and that early engagement with interested parties and experts leads to more robust analysis of regulatory proposals.

This resource from the DPMC also provides a sturdy framework for how to undertake useful consultations, and how feedback should be considered:

www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-12/co-24-7-impact-analysis-requirements.pdf.

The following information provides overviews of targeted consultation undertaken from across the Ministry during the requested period. The overviews have addressed your questions where possible. This includes consultation undertaken with Advisory and Monitoring Groups, which provide independent advice with members appointed due to their expertise and representation of stakeholders, sectors and communities. If you require any further information on a specific consultation, please let us know.

Targeted consultation to advise on measurement of a timely access target

- Earlier this year the Ministry and Health New Zealand undertook targeted engagement with nine Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) and primary care service providers to explore initial data for measuring timely access to primary care.
- The PHOs and primary care service providers were selected because of their likely capability and capacity to undertake data analysis of Practice Management Systems within short timeframes and to cover a range of practice models and geographic locations.
- The names of the PHOs and primary care service providers engaged in this work are withheld under the following sections of the Act:
 - 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and
 - 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister or any public service agency to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage.

As this information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the public interest in the release of this information and do not consider that it outweighs the need to withhold it in this case.

- Exploratory data from PHOs and primary care service providers indicated a national baseline of between 55% and 80% of patients receiving their appointment within seven days. More detail, including limitations to this analysis, is included in Briefing H2025061978: *Developing a health target for primary care*:
www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-09/10-04-2025-Briefing-Developing-a-health-target-for-primary-care-H2025061978.pdf.
- Once the target was announced by the Minister, Health NZ commenced updating the sector on next steps via a stakeholder update to all primary care stakeholders and updates to regular engagement channels including the General Practice Leadership Forum (GPLF) and PHO Chief Executive's forum.

Targeted consultation to develop the primary care access target via a Primary Health Target Advisory Group

- To support the development of the target, Health NZ and the Ministry have established the Primary Health Target Advisory Group (HTAG). The Ministry and Health NZ advised New Zealand Doctor of the membership of HTAG in response to a media request on 5 September, and this information was published in New Zealand Doctor on 5 September
www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/news/line-revealed-one-week-gp-target-advisory-group

- Information on HTAG has also been circulated to stakeholders through a stakeholder update, and through updates to regular engagement channels including the GPLF and PHO Chief Executive's forum.

Targeted consultation to update and get input on the Primary Care Work Programme via the Māori Monitoring Group

- The Ministry undertakes targeted consultation with the Māori Monitoring Group on the primary care work programme.
- This work programme is ongoing.

Targeted consultation on the Primary Care Outcomes and Performance Framework via the Health Target Advisory Group and the Māori Monitoring Group

- To support the development of the Health Target Advisory Group and Māori Monitoring Group.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



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