

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: 25 September 2025, 9:00am to 3:30pm

Location/platform: Online, Microsoft Teams

Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Peter Crampton, Beverly Te Huia, and Dr Caroline McElroy

Secretariat: Catriona Murray, Clair Mills, and Anihana Thorpe

Guests: GP Leaders Forum (Angus Chambers, Mark Liddle, Grant Davidson, Mary Morrissey, Tracey Morgan, Maura Thompson), and Sarah Hill (Ministry of Health)

Apologies: Jason Gurney, Ruth Cunningham, Faumuina Professor Fa'afetai Sopoaga.

Opening of meeting

Opening karakia by Beverly Te Huia

- Minutes from the August hui were approved by PHAC.
- Chair confirmed outstanding requests from the August hui have been responded to.
- Secretariat provided an update on activities since last meeting.
- PHAC discussed and reflected on the completed Social 'Determining our Future' webinar presentations.

Actions:

- Secretariat to confirm time of the Ministry of Health in person presentation with the communications team.
- Chair to identify any interest of Minister in PHAC presenting the 'Determining our Future report' to him.

Primary Care Session One – GP Leaders Forum.

Members from GP Leaders Forum joined the hui and discussed primary care and the primary care system.

- Chair introduced PHAC's kaupapa with the strategic focus on shaping primary care out to 2035.
- GPLF shared insights into ongoing and potential challenges with primary care.
- A collaborative discussion took place around the importance and challenges of primary care structure and system design.
- GPLF highlighted the need for more investment in primary care particularly in workforce.
- PHAC and GPLF discussed ownership and funding models, including increasing off-shore/corporate ownership, clinician-owner models and capitation, and the need for policy direction around ownership.
- The importance of a well-designed, robust meso-level function was highlighted, recognising the variability of PHOs' performance. The advantages of this being geographically based and focused on population health/accountable to population, providers and Te Whatu Ora.
- PHAC and GPLF discussed equity and access, including challenges with provision of primary care in rural, hauora Māori, and small practices.
- Innovation in primary care was discussed.
- PHAC sought any advice on future directions for primary care from GPLF.
- GPLF recommended exploring international models, including the Dutch approach to primary care.

Actions:

- Clair to contact Dutch colleagues regarding experience in The Netherlands around ownership.

Primary Care Session two

- PHAC debriefed from the GPLF session.
- The Secretariat provided an update on engagement since the last PHAC hui and noted the upcoming planned engagement.

The Secretariat presented power point slides for PHAC to discuss:

- PHAC discussed the broader rationale for the PHC work and pro-equity potential of primary care.

- PHAC discussed the first draft of the report and provided comments with general agreement to amend sections, particularly concerning responding to the Minister's key concerns, allocative investment shifts, and articulating better the key values underlying PHC, including the importance of better health outcomes.

Actions:

- PHAC to read the 2nd report on Health and Disability System Review.

Primary Care Session three

NB Mara Andrews unavailable. PHAC continued discussion from the previous session, discussing key areas shaping the future of primary care, including:

- The future of primary care ownership and governance.
- Proactive vs reactive care.
- Continuity and access of care; unmet need and potential pro-equity impact of PHC.
- Meso-level/integrating organisations and geographic versus other options.
- Population health and screening services.

Actions:

- Hui with Mara Andrews rescheduled for 4pm Monday 29th September.

Ministry of Health Primary Care Work programme update

Sarah Hill (Office of Chief Science Advisor) joined the hui and provided a brief update on her team's ongoing work related to primary care, as well as the broader work programme led by the Ministry of Health.

- PHAC discussed the current MoH work with Sarah.
- Sarah recommended PHAC secretariat contact Bronwyn Croxson (chief economist) for discussion of Vote Health and future modelling including PHC capitation (returns from leave in November).

Actions:

- Secretariat to circulate relevant papers developed by Sarah's team to PHAC members.

Any other business

The secretariat confirmed a student from University of Otago will assist with modelling for the primary care work.

- PHAC agreed to have the Ministry of Health in-person presentation from 11-12pm on 16th Oct.
- Secretariat noted that Caroline may be an apology for the November PHAC hui.

Actions:

- Chair to respond to the request received from the Salvation Army policy unit.
- Secretariat to confirm timing and member availability for the upcoming Public Health Association conference (Nov 26-27th).
- Secretariat to remind members to claim by 18 October.

Closing

Closing karakia by Peter Crampton

Next meeting: In person, 133 Molesworth Street, **16 October 2025**