

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Mental Health, Addiction, and Suicide Prevention Assurance Group, 4 December 2024

Date due to MO: 29 November 2024 **Date of Meeting:** 4 December 2024

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Reference:** H2024056858

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health

Consulted: Health New Zealand: ☐

Proactive release: This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: ☒

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Geoff Short	Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health Te Pou Whakakaha	s 9(2)(a)
Kiri Richards	Associate Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health Te Pou Whakakaha	

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Mental Health, Addiction, and Suicide Prevention Assurance Group, 4 December 2024

Date due:	29 November 2024		
To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Reference:	H2024056858

About the Meeting

Purpose of Meeting: Your regular meeting with the Mental Health, Addiction, and Suicide Prevention (MHASP) Assurance Group. The Group wish to discuss their work plan with you.

Details of Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 4 December 2024
Time: 2.00–3.00pm
Venue: Your office

Attendees

Dr Frances Hughes (chair)
 Vince Barry
 Dr Barbara Disley
 Dr Ian Lambie

Ministry representatives

Not currently attending, but can attend at your request.

The Group's proposed agenda includes:

- A general update from you (approx. 20 minutes)
- An update from the Group on their work plan (30 minutes) which includes their insights on:
 - the Health New Zealand organisational structure
 - the new associate psychology role
 - mental health and addiction targets
 - workforce development centre funding
 - ringfence funding
 - monitoring and data.
 (more information on each of these items is below)
- Next steps and overview of advice to be provided to you on their work plan areas following meetings in February 2025 (10 minutes).

Comment:

- The Group's purpose is to provide assurance to you and the Ministry of Health on the implementation of your mental health portfolio priorities within and across the mental health, addiction, and suicide prevention systems.

The Group are meeting with you to discuss their work plan

- The Group have worked with officials from the Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand to develop their work plan based on the items that you have requested their assurance on.
- The Group previously wrote to you earlier in November 2024 with an update on the work plan items. We have summarised this update for you below as we anticipate these are the likely key areas for discussion.
- **Health New Zealand organisational structure** – the Group highlights there are opportunities for changes to the Health New Zealand organisational structure to provide strengthened leadership and accountability for mental health and addiction, but further work is required with Health New Zealand to ensure this can be prioritised.
- **Associate psychology role** – there has been good progress towards the development of the associate psychologist role. Currently Health New Zealand are procuring a tertiary provider to develop the associate psychologist training programme.
- **Mental health and addiction targets** – the Group agree that targets will help drive focus on the key areas the system needs to improve. The Group has some concerns though on the status of the detailed implementation plans for the targets, which Health New Zealand are in the process of finalising, and ensuring there is associated dedicated resource and infrastructure within Health New Zealand to achieve these.
- **Funding (starting with the workforce development centres)** – the Group have identified opportunities to work with the workforce development centres and the Tertiary Education Commission on funding avenues for post graduate training in mental health and addiction.
- **Ringfence funding** – the Group have concerns about maintaining the mental health and addiction ringfence and protecting mental health and addiction investment during the financial changes being progressed within Health New Zealand.
- **System performance and monitoring** – the Group have provided input into the Ministry of Health's advice to you about future dashboard reporting from Health New Zealand. They consider this is shaping up well, but note it is difficult to provide assurance on due to the gaps in system performance data and the dashboard needing time to be up and running.

Next steps for the Group's work plan and future advice

- The Group has deep dive meetings planned with the Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand on December 4 2024, including a focus on the new associate psychology roles and monitoring and data.
- The Group will meet again in February 2025 for further deep dives and, with support from the Ministry of Health, will develop advice and proposed ways forward for you to consider in early 2025 on their focus areas.



Geoff Short

Deputy Director-General

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

Date: 28/11/2024

PROACTIVELY RELEASED