

Aide-Mémoire

Visit to IGENZ Medical Laboratory

Date due to MO: 10th November 2025 **Date of Meeting:** 14th November 2025

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Reference:** H2025074324

To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Copy to: N/A

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
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About the Visit

Purpose of Visit	You accepted an invitation from the Director of IGENZ Medical Laboratory, Daniel Ng, to visit the laboratory and learn about their work in medical genetic testing.		
Details of Visit:	Date:	14 November 2025	
	Time:	8.00 - 8.30 a.m.	
	Venue:	IGENZ Laboratory, Level 2, Quay Park Centre, 68-70 Beach Road, Auckland	
Attendees	Daniel Ng, Director of IGENZ Possibly Paul Oei – co-Founder of IGENZ Maxine Simmons – IGENZ Independent Director Amanda Dixon-McIver – IGENZ Laboratory Director <i>Note, biographies are included as Appendix 1</i>		
Organisation	IGENZ is a small but highly regarded niche laboratory based in Auckland which provides a range of genetic testing services.		
Ministry officials	Not currently attending - officials can attend at your request.		
Media	No media expected		
Talking points	You may wish to acknowledge the work of IGENZ and note that you support the use of genetic testing to improve the effectiveness of health care. You may wish to note the potential for genetic testing to support more tailored screening and treatment for some types of cancer – including breast and colon cancer. You may wish to ask IGENZ: • What types of genetic testing do they provide for public hospitals and clinics in New Zealand? • What role does IGENZ see itself playing in supporting the health system to realise the benefits of genetic testing? • How does use of genetic testing in NZ compare with that in other countries, e.g. Australia and the UK?		

Purpose

1. This Aide-Memoire provides you with information with to support your meeting with IGENZ Medical Laboratory (IGENZ) on 14 November 2025. Daniel Ng, Director of IGENZ, invited you to visit their premises in Auckland.

Background and context

2. IGENZ is a New Zealand-owned medical laboratory based in Auckland that focuses on genetic testing to help doctors diagnose and manage health conditions. They work with hospitals, clinics, private labs and directly with patients across the country to provide accurate and timely results.
3. IGENZ's genetic testing services cover a wide range of areas including cancer, fertility and inherited disorders. By analysing a person's genetic information, this can help clinicians make better decisions about treatment options and identify risks for certain conditions.
4. The team at IGENZ use advanced tools to look at DNA and detect changes that may cause illness. They also create tailored tests for unique cases and collaborate with healthcare professionals to support personalised care (precision medicine).
5. As part of the Pharmac uplift in 2024, biomarker testing funding was established for newly funded therapies. One such therapy for lung cancer (osimertinib) requires genetic testing via a blood test where it is not possible to take tissue directly from the patient's lung.
6. As one of very few laboratories with the ability to perform this test, IGENZ currently hold a contract with Health NZ to perform this test for patients.
7. The Ministry is working with Health New Zealand (HNZ) to develop a strategy for nationally-consistent access to specialist clinical genetic services and diagnostic testing. In addition to contracting services from laboratories such as IGENZ, the strategy includes development of capacity for clinical support including genetic counselling and specialist clinical genetic expertise.

Appendix 1: Biographies



Daniel Ng is a founding Director and Senior Scientist at IGENZ, a privately owned, IANZ-accredited medical testing laboratory based in Auckland. With over 30 years of experience in cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics, Daniel has played a pivotal role in shaping IGENZ's focus on cancer-related genetic testing and translational research. He holds degrees from Massey University, the University of Otago, and the University of Auckland, including a Master of Science in Molecular Cytogenetics. Prior to co-founding IGENZ in 2006, Daniel worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Auckland District Health Board. He remains an active member of several professional bodies and contributes to the advancement of diagnostic science in New Zealand.



Paul Oei is the Managing Director and one of the founding members of IGENZ, a privately owned medical testing laboratory based in Auckland. With over 30 years of experience in laboratory science across both public and private sectors, Paul has played a pivotal role in shaping IGENZ's focus on molecular diagnostics and translational research. He is a member of the Royal College of Pathologists and the NZ Institute of Directors, and holds a Master's degree in Biology and a Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Auckland. Paul has been actively involved in national genomics forums and industry engagement, including presenting at the Ministry of Health's 2024 genomics industry forum.



Maxine Simmons is a pioneering figure in New Zealand's biotechnology sector with over 30 years of commercial experience in private company development. She co-founded one of New Zealand's first biotechnology companies and has played a central role in translating scientific innovation into commercial success. Maxine currently has held multiple directorships in many research agencies and has been awarded the CNZM for her services to science.



Dr Amanda Dixon-McIver is a highly respected clinical scientist with over 30 years of experience in medical molecular genetics, both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. She joined IGENZ in 2010 and currently serves as its Laboratory Director, overseeing diagnostic and research operations in molecular genetics and DNA profiling. Under her leadership, IGENZ has become the only ISO 15189-accredited parentage testing laboratory in New Zealand. In 2019, Amanda was awarded a **Service Excellence Award** by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) for her outstanding service and contributions to the field of human genetics.

Appendix 3: Invitation email

Dear Minister Brown,

We would like to invite you to visit our medical laboratory, which was established in 2006, in Auckland. We provide medical genetic testing to almost all public hospitals and private medical laboratories. Our testing helps clinicians accessing diagnosis, prognosis and detecting feasibility for targeted therapy for cancer patients.

With the health constraints on both funding and personnel, we are very pleased that the government endorses public and private partnership. I think this is a smart model where the public sector can offload the burden and the private sector can help out, a win/win model.

I understand you are super-busy with your time and many commitments. However, if you did have some time, we would like to invite you to visit our premises in Quay Park Centre, Beach Road, Auckland. It is not far from the Spark Stadium. It would be an honour to show you what we do and listen to your opinion on what you think we can contribute. We promise we will sort out the coffee and muffins.

Your sincerely,

*Daniel Ng
Company director/Senior scientist
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