

# Memorandum

## Engagement with Primary Care Groups and General Practice Leaders

**Date due to MO:** 20 February 2022      **Action required by:** N/A  


---

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Health Report number:** H2023020132  


---

**To:** Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health  


---

**Consulted:** Health New Zealand:  Māori Health Authority:

### Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr Joe Bourne	Chief Medical Officer	s 9(2)(a)
Dr Anna Skinner	Chief Clinical Advisor, Office of the Chief Clinical Officers	

### Minister's office to complete:

- Approved       Decline       Noted  
 Needs change       Seen       Overtaken by events  
 See Minister's Notes       Withdrawn

Comment:

# Engagement with Primary Care Groups and General Practice Leaders

## Purpose

1. This memorandum responds to your request for advice on different clinical and non-clinical groups that exist in the primary care sector (including membership and purpose) who have requested to meet with you, which ones are most appropriate and useful to engage with, and how frequently.

## Summary

2. Covered in this memo are 9 general practice-based sector organisations and groups that represent the interests of primary health organisations (PHOs), general practices, general practitioners (GPs), and rural health providers. Information on the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists has also been requested.
3. We recommend you meet with the General Practice Leaders' Forum (GPLF), General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ) and the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network six-monthly and two other groups annually. Meetings with the remaining organisations and groups could be on an 'as required' basis.

## Primary Care Groups

4. Some groups have a scope that extends beyond general practice. From a primary care perspective, you may choose to meet with the following sector organisations and groups on a pre-scheduled routine basis:

	Organisation	Meeting Frequency
1	General Practice Leaders' Forum (GPLF)	Six-monthly
2	General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ)	Six-monthly
3	The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP)	Six-monthly
4	Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network	Six-monthly
5	General Practice Owners' Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (GenPro)	Annually
6	General Practitioners Aotearoa (GPA)	Annually
7	Green Cross Health	As required
8	Whanau Ora Community Clinic	As required
9	New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists (NZCCP)	As required

Organisation		Meeting Frequency
10	Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand	As required

## Recommended Organisations for Pre-Scheduled Meetings

### General Practice Leaders' Forum (GPLF)

Membership grouping: National PHO and general practice organisations

Recommendation: Meet six-monthly

5. GPLF is a group consisting of the chief executives and Chairs and Presidents of GPNZ, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP), Practice Managers and Administrators New Zealand (PMAANZ), General Practice Owners Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (GenPro) and Hauora Taiwhenua. The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) were previously a member of the group before its liquidation in 2022. GPLF itself is not a legal entity, but members meet to consider and respond to strategic issues impacting on primary care.

6. s 9(2)(g)(i)

7. GPLF is currently chaired by Dr Fiona Bolden, a rural GP in Whangamatā and chair of Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network. Hauora Taiwhenua currently provides secretariat services to GPLF's meetings. s 9(2)(g)(i)

### General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ)

Membership grouping: PHOs

Recommendation: Six-Monthly

8. GPNZ is the representative body for 24 of the 30 PHOs in New Zealand. Those PHOs cover over 85 percent of the country's enrolled population. The 6 PHOs who are not members are Christchurch PHO, the National Hauora Coalition, Ngā Mataapuna Oranga, Ngāti Porou Hauora, Ora Toa PHO and South Canterbury Primary and Community.
9. GPNZ provides a strong national voice, advocating for primary care and the health and wellbeing of the community by supporting the delivery of high-quality general practice services, alongside many other primary care services administered by PHOs and funded by Te Whatu Ora.

10. GPNZ provides secretariat services to the PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol (PSAAP) Primary Care Caucus and participates in several national advisory groups run by the Ministry.
11. GPNZ is a member of the GPLF and the Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand.
12. GPNZ hosts and supports the following PHO groups for its members:
  - a. national CEOs
  - b. primary care clinical leaders
  - c. Māori leaders
  - d. national chief information officers.
13. GPNZ is an influential national organisation that has been instrumental in bringing together primary care clinicians and managers to support the COVID-19 response.
14. Aside from COVID-19 work, GPNZ's members will be interested in the health and disability system reforms, and what role PHOs may have in the future. Primary health organisations have been quick to restructure their organisations and adapt to changes in government policy.
15. Many PHOs have evolved from independent practitioner associations (IPAs) that were established in the 1990s and all are now not for profit organisations, with trust boards that have provider representatives, usually including at least one GP representative alongside nursing, Māori and iwi, and consumer representatives. s 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]
16. On 15 February 2023 Dr Bryan Betty (formerly the Medical Director at the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners) was announced as the new chair of GPNZ. The former chair is Dr Jeff Lowe who will be stepping down after seven years following his appointment to the Board of Te Whatu Ora. Dr Betty's last day with the College will be 10 March 2023 and he will start his GPNZ role immediately after, supported by Maura Thompson as CEO.
17. Please note a request to meet has not yet been received from GPNZ.

### **The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College)**

Membership grouping: General practitioners  
Recommendation: Six-Monthly

18. The College is the professional body and postgraduate educational institute for GPs and rural hospital medicine practitioners.
19. The College is a professional membership organisation that works to strengthen the professionalism and practice of its members.
20. They strive to ensure high quality care in general practices. They set the Foundation and Cornerstone Standards for general practice. The PHO Services Agreement requires

all general practices to meet the College's Foundation Standard as the minimum standard.

21. s 9(2)(g)(i)
22. The College also provides ongoing education, assessment, quality and support services for GPs and rural hospital medicine; and represents its members by providing advice and expertise to government and within the wider health sector.
23. The chair is Dr Samantha Murton, who is a GP and practice owner in Wellington. She is supported by Lynne Hayman as CEO.

### Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network

Membership grouping: Chapters – Rural Communities Aotearoa, Rural General Practice, Rural Health Research and Education, Rural Hospitals, Rural Midwifery and Maternity, Rural Nurses, Rural Technical, Scientific and Allied Health, Students of Rural Health Aotearoa, Whanau Whanui

Recommendation: Six monthly

24. Hauora Taiwhenua is a membership and support organisation for rural health professionals. It includes both rural practices and individual members covering more than 1,800 doctors, nurses, practice managers and students.
25. The HTRHN has an important role in bringing rural health practitioners together, sharing experiences and maintaining a critical sense of community and connection. The HTRHN also advocates on behalf of rural issues across government departments and Ministers.
26. Rural providers face different challenges to their urban counterparts. The lack of a wide range of services in isolated communities often places added pressure on the general practice workforce. For example, this includes greater after-hours rosters and being the first responder to medical emergencies, when paramedic services are more than 30 minutes away by road through the Primary Response in Medical Emergencies (PRIME) service.
27. s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(j)
- 28.
29. The chair is Dr Fiona Bolden, who is a rural GP in Whangamatā. The chief executive is Grant Davidson, PhD who joined the HTRHN in May 2020.

## General Practice Owners' Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (GenPro)

Membership grouping: Practice owners

Recommendation: Meet annually

30. GenPro was established in 2020, to represent frontline general practice owner-operators and urgent care providers in what it described as a direct response to the COVID-19 threat to general practice sustainability and the previously mounting dissatisfaction across the sector. s 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
31. GenPro was formed in 2020 by a number of GP owners who were concerned about this lack of direct representation. Its vision is to promote and advocate for sustainable, responsive and high quality general practice services for the population of New Zealand.
32. GenPro aims to represent the more than 1,000 general practices and urgent care providers across the country. Nearly all general practices and urgent care organisations are private businesses. They are owned, in whole or in part, by partnerships of GPs, nurses, other health practitioners, private individuals or one of several larger corporate entities.
33. Since its establishment, GenPro has become increasingly vocal and visible with a primary concern of advocating for increased funding levels. They also provide secretariat services to PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol's (PSAAP's) Contracted Provider Caucus.
34. GenPro is chaired by Dr Tim Malloy s 9(2)(a)  
[REDACTED]. Dr Malloy was previously chair of the College. Dr Angus Chambers is the deputy chair and is a practice owner in Christchurch. Dr Malloy is supported by Philip Grant, CEO of GenPro.

## General Practitioners Aotearoa

Membership grouping: General Practitioners

Recommendation: Annually

35. As the professional organisation for General Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand, General Practitioners Aotearoa (GPA) represents all General Practitioners on the issues that affect them, their work, their training and the wellbeing of their patients and the communities they serve.
36. This group has formed out of a concern that following the demise of the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) in 2022 there was no professional group representing GPs who were not practice owners. The intention is to represent all GPs regardless of ownership or employment.
37. The Interim Board members are Dr Api Talemaitoga, Dr Ari Pfeffeinberger, Dr David (Buzz) Boothman-Burrell, Dr Jocelyn Wood and Dr Marcia Walker.

38. As GPA is in the process of incorporating as a society it is recommended that engagement is in the second half of the calendar year.

### **Organisations the Minister could meet with as required**

39. The following groups have requested meetings with you in your role as the Minister of Health. It is recommended you meet with the following organisations and groups on an as required basis, noting that these groups are private health provider organisations or profession specific societies that have requested to meet with you. Manatū Hauora would not consider meeting with these groups a priority.

#### **Green Cross Health**

Membership grouping: General practice and urgent care organisations, community pharmacy organisations, community support

Recommendation: As required

40. Green Cross Health is a primary health care provider delivering integrated health care in New Zealand. Green Cross Health represents 345 community pharmacies under the Life Pharmacy and Unichem brands and 57 medical centres.
41. Green Cross Health also provides community nursing services through Total Care Health and home health care services through Access Homehealth Limited. Access Homehealth Limited has a nationwide team of over 2,800 support workers and registered nurses to help support people to remain active, safe and independent in their own homes and communities.
42. Green Cross Health's focus is to remain a key provider of integrated primary health care and to deliver improved health care to New Zealanders. The company supports a number of Primary Health Organisations (PHO) and general practices with health management, including assisting with workflow productivity, clinical leadership and governance.
43. s 9(2)(b)(ii)
44. Kim Ellis has been the Chair of Green Cross Health since 2019. He is also currently Chair of the New Zealand Social Infrastructure Fund. Green Cross Health is a member of GenPro. The Clinical Director of the Medical Division of Green Cross Health, Dr Stephanie Taylor, is a Board Director for GenPro.

#### **Whanau Ora Community Clinic**

Membership grouping: General practice network

Recommendation: As required

45. Whanau Ora Community Clinic is a primary care provider. It was established in 2014 and is founded and directed by George Ngatai and Raewyn Bhana.

46. They provide a zero fee service for first-line services for those who are enrolled with the Clinic. Whanau Ora provides services to primarily Māori, Pacific and high needs populations. They have an enrolled population of more than 45,000 patients, many with high health needs associated with relative deprivation and low socio-economic status.
47. Whanau Ora offers comprehensive primary health care services provided via practices in Kaeo, Kaikohe, Puhunui, Pukekohe and Ōtautahi. Each community clinic is supported by a team consisting of a doctor or nurse practitioner, a nurse, a social worker, a counsellor, and a community lawyer or whānau navigator.

### **New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists**

Membership grouping: Professional college

Recommendation: As required

48. The New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists (NZCCP) is a registered New Zealand Incorporated Society and a non-profit professional services organisation committed to ensuring the highest standards of clinical psychology are available to the public of New Zealand.
49. NZCCP aims to provide a process by which trained and competent clinical psychologists can be identified and distinguished from others offering mental health services. They aim to present and promote the quality and skills of its members and assist in educating the public about sound standards of practice.
50. NZCCP aims to meet goals in several primary areas:
  - a. identification of clinical psychologists
  - b. education
  - c. representation.

The presidents are Tricia Stuart and Angus Maxwell, both of whom have backgrounds as clinical psychologists.

### **Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand (the Federation)**

Membership grouping: Primary and community health care organisations

51. The Federation was established in 2018 to bring together the representative function of GPNZ and the since disestablished PHO Alliance. The Federation was launched at Parliament and had Hon Annette King as the establishment chair who was followed by Hon Steve Chadwick. The Federation has a very broad membership base including many PHOs, pharmacy, aged care, community health providers, non-governmental organisations, mental health, maternity, allied health, disability and national organisations.
52. The CEO left in 2020 after one year in the role and has not been replaced. GPNZ is supporting the Federation with its governance secretarial functions.



53. s 9(2)(g)(i)

54. The Federation is not an organisation the Ministry has regular involvement with. The Ministry's main sector stakeholders are GPNZ, the College, and GenPro. There is some duplication in membership across these groups.

### Next steps

55. This is a background noting report provided at your request. Officials can provide further information on matters raised in this report if requested.



Dr Joe Bourne

**Chief Medical Officer**

Date: 17 February 2023

PROACTIVELY RELEASED