



Minister of Health

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato

Date of publishing: 5 April 2024

These documents have been proactively released by the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti.

Title of Cabinet paper:

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato

Title of minute:

Additional Item: Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato (CAB-24-MIN-0028)

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Key to redaction code:

- S 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato

Portfolio Health

On 12 February 2024, the Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Government's 100-day plan includes a commitment to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Waikato to progress a third medical school;
- 2 **noted** that the Ministry of Health and the University of Waikato will sign a MoU on Tuesday 13 February 2024 committing the parties to undertake a programme of work;
- 3 **noted** that the intent of the MoU is to provide clarity that the parties will take all the necessary steps to ensure a robust process is undertaken before final decisions are made by Cabinet;
- 4 **noted** that this does not commit the Government to fund or establish the third medical school at this point;
- 5 **noted** that a full cost-benefit analysis will be presented before any binding agreement is made;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Health will return to Cabinet with a work programme for discussion and approval, including milestones and proposed content and approach to a cost-benefit analysis in the coming months.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Health

Cabinet

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato

Proposal

- 1 This paper supports my oral update on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Waikato to undertake an initial step to establishing a third medical school.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 This paper relates to a commitment in the Government's 100-day plan.

Context

- 3 To meet the needs of our growing population's complex health needs and ensure timely access to quality health care, growing and retaining the domestic health workforce is a top priority for this Government.
- 4 Many General Practitioners are planning to retire in the next 10 years. This will particularly impact provincial and rural communities, which are already experiencing New Zealand's biggest doctor shortages. I am committed to growing the supply of domestically trained doctors, particularly primary and community care doctors who are dedicated to serving these communities.
- 5 This will require an increase in New Zealand's education and training capacity. Our 100-day plan includes a commitment to sign a MoU with the University of Waikato to progress a third medical school.

Signing an MoU with the University of Waikato to tackle New Zealand's health workforce training capacity

- 6 The MoU is the first phase in progressing a proposal to build New Zealand's capacity and creating a sustainable supply of domestically trained doctors. It will provide clarity that the parties will take all the necessary steps to ensure a robust process is undertaken before final decisions are made by Cabinet. It does not commit the Government to fund or establish the third medical school at this point.
- 7 As the parties responsible for delivery, the Director-General of Health and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato are the MoU signatories. They will sign the MoU on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at Parliament.

The MoU ensures a robust process with necessary assurance is in place

- 8 The MoU commits the Ministry of Health and the University of Waikato to develop a programme of work to establish a new medical school. It also provides an opportunity to align with the Government's commitment to ensure a representative, responsive and culturally safe workforce and to deliver the most value for our investment.
- 9 This approach allows for a thorough package of information to be available for me to present to Cabinet later this year before any final decision to deliver the medical school is made. It also provides the opportunity to further shape the outcomes of a new medical school to deliver the most value for our investment.
- 10 I will return to Cabinet in the coming months for approval of this detailed programme of work, including the approach to the cost-benefit analysis and other assurance processes.

Cost-of-living, legislative, population, and human rights implications

- 11 There are no implications associated with this paper. These implications will be considered as part of the programme of work to establish a new medical school.

Financial Implications

- 12 There are no costs associated with this first phase of this MoU however I will come back to Cabinet in the coming months to outline the programme of work required. I

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Impact Analysis

- 13 Impact analysis does not apply to this paper.

Use of external Resources

- 14 No external resources have been used in the development of this paper.

Consultation

- 15 The Ministry of Health has worked closely with affected agencies and the University of Waikato to develop the MoU and programme of work. This will continue as the programme of work is further developed.

Communications

- 16 My office will provide a press release to support the signing and media will be also present at the event for a question-and-answer session.

Proactive Release

- 17 This paper will be proactively released, with any necessary redactions, as per Cabinet Office circular CO (23) 4.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 **note** that the Government's 100-day plan includes a commitment to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Waikato to progress a third medical school;
- 2 **note** that the Ministry of Health and the University of Waikato will sign a MoU on Tuesday 13 February 2024 committing the parties to undertake a programme of work;
- 3 **note** that the intent of the MoU is to provide clarity that the parties will take all the necessary steps to ensure a robust process is undertaken before final decisions are made by Cabinet;
- 4 **note** that this does not commit the Government to fund or establish the third medical school at this point;
- 5 **note** that a full cost-benefit analysis will be presented before any binding agreement is made;
- 6 **note** I will return to Cabinet with a work programme for discussion and approval, including milestones and proposed content and approach to a cost-benefit analysis in the coming months.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister of Health