

# Primary care priorities for the future Government

General practices and primary care providers underpin the health system, delivering most of the health care, for most of the people, most of the time.

The problems facing primary and community care are long standing and well understood, including inequitable access and outcomes, lengthy and growing wait times for appointments, increasing demand and patient complexity, workforce shortages, staff burnout and financial instability. Combined, these issues present a major challenge to continued access to safe, timely, affordable and high-quality care for patients.

Despite all this, we can offer solutions and deliver innovations. There is huge appetite for change and improvement.

Primary and community care, in partnership with Māori and iwi providers, are integral to delivering equity and pae ora. We can no longer be treated as a stakeholder at the edge of the system and must instead become resourced, valued and respected as a true partner; this includes supporting and enhancing primary care leadership and meso-level organisations.

*Mā tā waka o ngā hau e whā tēnā tātou katoa.*

**These are some of the solutions we believe must be a priority for an incoming government, and should be endorsed and supported by all political parties.**

## EQUITY OF ACCESS AND OUTCOMES FOR ALL

*Bounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles, ensure equity of access and equity of outcomes for all.*

- Recognise our **obligations to Māori as tangata whenua** under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, alongside a **commitment to other priority groups** where inequities exist.
- Identify and consistently fund **models of care** needed to respond in a way that addresses equity and supports the most complex and high needs patients, including developing enhanced primary care teams.
- Invest in services to reach and engage the **unenrolled population**.



## SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE

*Value and support the primary and community care workforce on par with the Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora employed workforce.*

- Commit to **immediate fair and equal remuneration** of our general practice workforce. Achieving 100% pay parity for our nurses and kaiāwhina no later than Budget 2024-25 is a priority, with appropriate mechanisms in place to keep the gap closed.
- Effective and targeted **recruitment and retention** strategies to grow and maintain the primary and community care workforce.
- Properly resource culturally relevant **workforce development and training**, including increasing undergraduate and postgraduate exposure to general practice, primary and community care in all health professions.



## FIT-FOR-PURPOSE FUNDING

*Precious health resourcing is targeted where it can have the greatest impact, supporting affordable access to care, healthier lifestyles and reduced need for downstream services.*

- Major changes to the **capitation formula** implemented in Budget 2024-25 to correct historic underfunding and address persistent issues of equity, deprivation, comorbidity and complexity.
- Increase primary care funding to address **affordability** for patients alongside service **sustainability**.
- Sustainably and adequately resourcing primary and community care to **deliver services close to home** rather than in the hospital setting.
- Address **after-hours care** through funding and solutions that enable appropriate access alongside the availability of appropriate and safe clinician time.

