



Office of Hon Tony Ryall

Minister of Health
Minister for State Owned Enterprises

30 JAN 2014

Dear

Letter of Expectations for DHBs and subsidiary entities 2014/15

Public and patient confidence in the health service continues to grow strongly. Thank you to your team. This achievement is built on the four objectives of the Government's health plan: *helping families stay healthy, better performance, best use of every dollar, and a strong and trusted workforce*. In the next year we expect continued strong focus on successful implementation.

New Zealand has come through the global financial crisis in much better shape than most other countries. That's because of this government's careful and prudent financial management. Our approach has been to protect the most vulnerable in our society, and rebuild the economy's capacity to create jobs, higher incomes and security.

Despite the toughest of times, we are providing better public services within careful funding increases. This government now invests an extra \$2.5 billion a year more into the public health service. And this year's budget will again see more investment in Health.

Better Public Services: Results for New Zealanders

Of the Prime Minister's ten whole-of-government key result areas, DHBs are expected to actively engage and invest in increased infant immunisation, reduced incidence of rheumatic fever, and reduced assaults on children.

It is important Boards work closely with other social sector organisations and initiatives including Whanau Ora, Children's Action Plan and Youth Mental Health. The government values the contribution of NGOs and DHBs must work with them.

National Health Targets

The national health targets have proven very successful at driving major improvements for patients: more elective surgery, faster access to emergency and cancer care, and better prevention. DHBs will provide clear and specific plans for achieving all national health targets in their Annual Plans.

In particular further work is required to achieve the three preventive targets. You must demonstrate appropriate performance management arrangements for PHOs. Poor performance must be rectified and not ignored. You should again show your local primary care networks are involved in and explicitly endorse your target achievement plans.

Your DHB is expected to help patients by meeting our objectives of shorter waiting times for surgery, diagnostics, cardiac and cancer care.

Care Closer to Home

New Zealanders are living longer, more sedentary lives. This means more of us have chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma, dementia, cancer and mental health disorders. The sooner doctors and nurses can detect, treat or prevent these conditions, the better they can reduce the significant burden these conditions put on both patients and the health system.

A major strategy to do this is *clinical integration* – providing joined-up care across primary and secondary services. With resources and interventions flowing to where they are most effective. So patients get their care sooner and closer to home.

DHBs must focus strongly on service integration across the health system, including integrated family health centres, primary care direct referral for diagnostics, clinical pathways and sharing of patient controlled health records.

Health of Older People

Your DHB is expected to continue working with primary and community care to deliver integrated services for older people to support their continued safe, independent living at home; particularly important are avoiding a hospital admission and care after a hospital discharge. You should continue working with the Ministry to implement our commitments to improving home care, stroke services and dementia care pathways.

Regional and National Collaboration

DHBs are expected to make further progress on implementing Regional Service Plans including workforce, IT and capital objectives. DHBs are expected to strongly support the implementation of the key Health Benefits Ltd savings programmes. Further gains in quality, efficiency and cost control will also come from your work with Pharmac, Health Workforce NZ and the Health Quality and Safety Commission. The new patient satisfaction survey is one example.

Strong clinical leadership and engagement is important and remains essential.

Living Within Our Means

To support New Zealand's recovery your DHB must keep to budget. Your DHB must have detailed and effective plans to improve financial performance year on year. Equity and capital remain constrained. As agents of the Crown you and your Board must assure yourselves that you have in place the appropriate clinical and executive leadership to deliver on the government's objectives. You and your Board must monitor and hold your CEO accountable against these expectations.

Appreciation

Again, thank you for the considerable effort you and your team are making. This makes a real difference to the quality of life of many thousands of New Zealanders. Please share this letter with your clinical leaders and local primary care networks.

Yours sincerely



Tony Ryall
Minister of Health

Appendix 1: Prime Minister's Key Result Areas and DHB Health Targets for 2014/15

Prime Minister's Key Result Areas – Supporting Vulnerable Children

Increase immunisation rates

Increase infant immunisation rates so that 95 percent of eight-month-olds are fully immunised by December 2014 and this is maintained through to 30 June 2017.

Rheumatic Fever

Reduce the incidence of rheumatic fever by two thirds to 1.4 cases per 100,000 people by 2017.

Assist to reduce the number of assaults on children

By 2017, halt the rise in children experiencing physical abuse and reduce current numbers by 5%.

National Health Targets for 2014/15

Shorter stays in Emergency Departments

95 percent of patients will be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an Emergency Department (ED) within six hours.

Improved access to elective surgery

The volume of elective surgery will be increased by at least 4,000 discharges per year.

Shorter waits for cancer treatment / transitioning to Faster Cancer Treatment

All patients ready-for-treatment, wait less than four weeks for radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

Faster cancer treatment.

The 62-day faster cancer treatment indicator that is currently a developmental measure, will transition into a full policy priority accountability measure, and will become the next cancer health target during 2014/15. Further details including the health target definition, DHB performance expectations for 2014/15, and the process for transition will be provided at the end of February 2014.

Increased immunisation

90 percent of eight months olds will have their primary course of immunisation (six weeks, three months and five months immunisation events) on time by July 2014 and 95 percent by December 2014.

Better help for smokers to quit

95 percent of hospitalised patients who smoke and are seen by a health practitioner in public hospitals and 90 percent of enrolled patients who smoke and are seen by a health practitioner in General Practice are offered brief advice and support to quit smoking. Within the target a specialised identified group will include:

- progress towards 90 percent of pregnant women who identify as smokers at the time of confirmation of pregnancy in general practice or booking with Lead Maternity Carer are offered advice and support to quit.

More heart and diabetes checks

90 percent of the eligible population will have had their cardiovascular risk assessed in the last five years.

