

NGO Council Update from Chair – April 2015



I'm pleased to share with you all an opportunity to play a key role in the [review of the NZ Health Strategy](#).

On Friday, the new Director-General of Health, Chai Chuah wrote to the NGO Council inviting us to put forward 30 names of NGO sector leaders to participate in a workshop on Saturday 23 May 2015 in Wellington.

This will be an opportunity to hear where early work on the [NZ Health Strategy review](#) has led the Ministry and to contribute to how it develops. Registrations for a second workshop will be sought at a later date. (The Ministry has set these on Saturdays following feedback on attendance at similar workshops in the past.)

The updated [NZ Health Strategy](#) will provide a foundation for a safer and more clinically and financially sustainable health sector. This 'roadmap' for the next 3-5 years will also identify clear priority areas for the sector to focus efforts on.

The Ministry is seeking representatives from across the health and disability sector through a number of avenues, so numbers from specific organisations and parts of the sector are by necessity restricted, but 30 places is a meaningful representation from our membership.

Apply now

Deadlines are tight, so we **need your names by 7 May**, so we can select 30 and pass these on to the Ministry to send out invitations and further documentation.

In selecting names, our aim will be to deliver input from a broad range of perspectives and from a range of different NGOs spread around NZ; NGOs delivering different services, working with different communities and of various sizes – large, medium and small.

We need **senior people** for these places – to ensure vital experience and knowledge inform the workshop discussions. Confirmation and further details will be e-mailed directly to selected registrants.

Attendees need to cover their own travel costs to Wellington.

To put your name forward, [click here](#).

Background on the NZ Health Strategy

The current strategy was released in 2000 and much has changed during this period. The health sector is facing a range of pressures including a growing ageing population. Importantly, new developments in technology are changing the way we deliver health services and interact with our communities. The Minister of Health, Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman, is interested in building on the strategy with an updated, unifying vision and a roadmap that provides guidance on relative priorities and how progress will be achieved. This was a message he heard very clearly from clinicians, governors and senior managers in his visits around New Zealand at the end of last year.

The Minister has tasked the Ministry with leading the strategy update and Chai has appointed a small Expert Advisory Group to assist with developing the draft: Dr Rees Tapsell, Dr Margaret Wilsher, Professor Nicholas Mays, Professor Kathryn McPherson, Dr Kathryn Holloway and Mr Marcel van den Assum.

Additional reviews

The Minister asked the Ministry to lead the update of the NZ Health Strategy alongside [two other reviews](#):

1. A review of health system funding mechanisms, which will look at incentives for innovation, efficiency and better social services integration – led by Dr Murray Horn, who has both financial management skills and knowledge of the health sector and its funding arrangements
2. A review of health system capability and capacity to ensure the Strategy is well-supported – led by Sue Suckling, who has expertise in governance and private and public sector leadership. Sue is supported by a panel of respected experts: Mr Andrew Connolly, Associate Professor Jens Mueller and Mr David Russell.

Other opportunities to contribute

The workshops will not be the only opportunity for engagement. Over the next three to four months, the Ministry will be undertaking targeted engagement across the sector as it develops a draft for the Minister, which will be followed by wider consultation once this first stage is completed.

You or your organisation may be approached to be involved in more targeted engagement in relation to the health strategy and/or the two reviews. The strategy is also likely to be discussed at existing health sector fora and the Ministry will be establishing an avenue to provide input via the web at www.health.govt.nz/healthstrategyupdate

Be sure to make the most of the opportunities to contribute, Mauri Ora.

Donna Matahaere-Atariki

Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council

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