



Eye Health National Clinical Network

Work Plan to 2026

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Strategic Goals of the National Clinical Network Eye Health

Vision

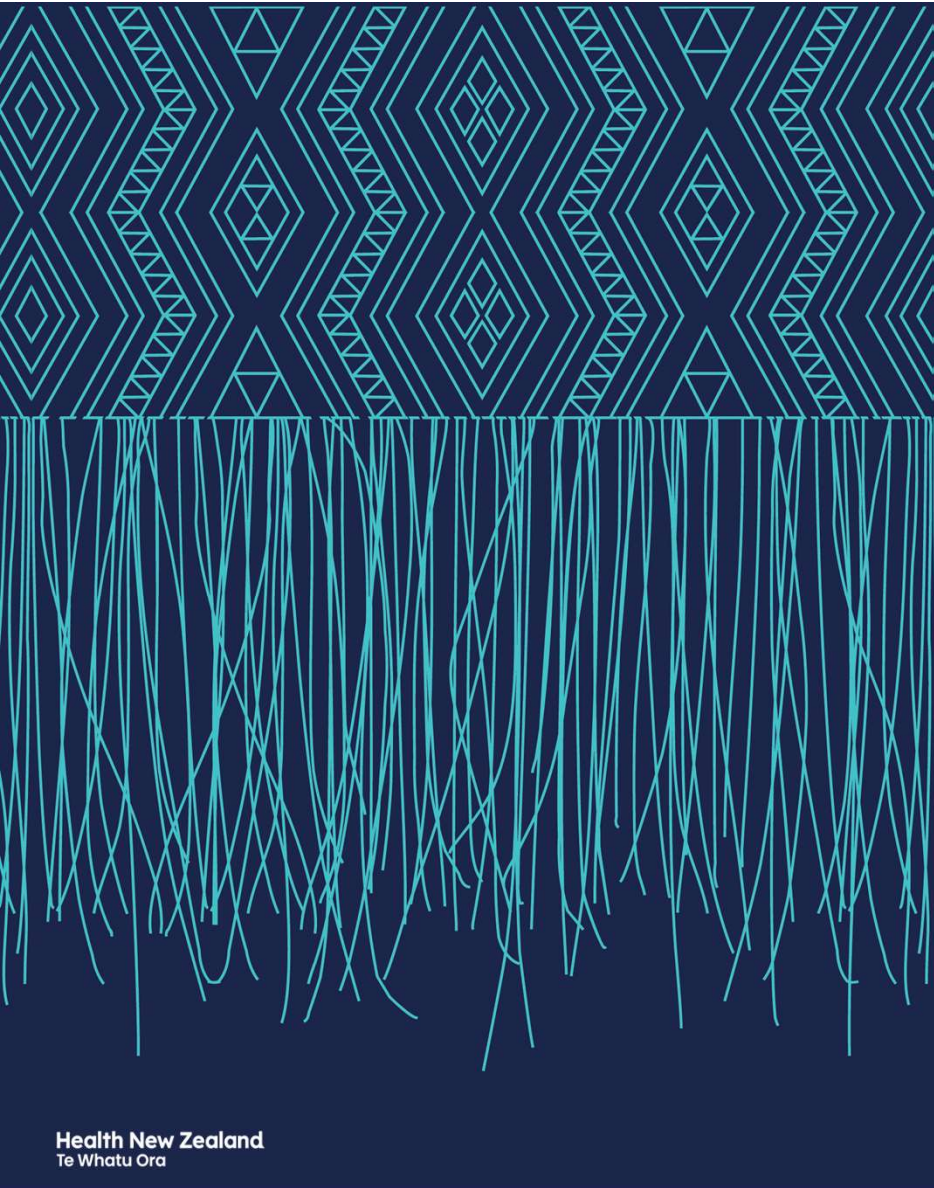
- To have a future where **all** our people have **exceptional** eye health

Strategic Objectives

1. To build an eye health service that embeds **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** as its foundation and enacts Te Tiriti principles and articles to improve health outcomes for Māori
2. Achieve **equity** in eye health outcomes
3. **Protect, promote** and **improve eye health** in New Zealand
4. Develop **systems** to deliver **safe, effective and sustainable** care for every patient
5. Build a strong eye **health workforce** and workforce **culture**

What we have achieved so far...

- Established the Eye Health national clinical **network**
- Growing **clinical and strengthening clinical leadership** from across ophthalmic professional groups
- Established **workstreams** – Childhood, Teenage Years, Adult (cataract & diabetic retinopathy)
- Met with **regional** centres + established regional networks across the motu
- Connections established with **key stakeholders** such as H&SS Delivery Unit, and supporting discussions on optometrists listing direct to waiting lists
- Connected with **Commissioning Team** on Synergia Project for diabetes screening in South Auckland
- National **Data and Digital** Improvements
 1. Contribute clinical voice to the national procurement of **ROP** cameras and image/viewing software
 2. Supporting development of **Data and Digital Roadmap**
 3. Advice on inclusion of **Optometrists** in the enrolment system roadmap
- Contributing clinical leadership to **Procurement & Supply Chain priorities** for Health NZ
- Providing national clinical expertise to **PHARMAC** to Specialist Advisor Committees on Ziv-aflibercept



Key Priorities

• 4 KEY PRIORITIES

1. National Access Criteria
2. Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)
3. Keratoconus
4. Cataract

Children Workstream
Teenage Workstream
Adult Workstream

National Clinical Network & Clinical Leadership

National Clinical Network and Leadership

Leads: Dr Sarah Welch, Dr Alistair Papali'i-Curtin and Dr Justin Mora

Key priority	Supporting actions	Initiation date	Completion date	Key driver
Support the establishment of Regional Clinical Networks	Create collaborative relationships and thought leadership through the National Clinical Network	In progress	Ongoing	Clinical Voice / Leadership
National Guidance (P)	Nationally agreed access criteria for ophthalmic conditions	In progress	June 2025	Regional Variation
	National Standing Orders for Ophthalmology Ambulatory Care Medication Administration	In progress	March 2025	Acute flow/planned care
	National Protocol re After Hours Operating for Acute Vitreo-Retinal Surgery	In progress	Dec 2024	Acute flow/planned care
	Care Pathways for cataracts and injection, starting with injection pathway.	March 2025	June 2026	Regional Variation
	Provide clinical leadership to Delivery Unit discussions on a new initiative for patient decisions informing follow-up clinic bookings	Oct 2024	Ongoing	Outpatient waiting lists
Contribute to Procurement & Supply Chain priorities for Health NZ	Provide clinical advice and guidance on cataract and injection packs to reduce waste. Also, this is part of the Health Sustainability Group to reduce waste and use of none plastic materials.	In progress	Dec 2025	Sustainability
	Promote and investigate care closer to home models of care, to reduce travel for patients and health professionals and provide clinical leadership to the role of telehealth clinics.	Sept 2024	Ongoing	Sustainability
	Provide clinical voice to support reusability discussions and standards for Central Sterile Services Department	Oct 2024	Ongoing	Sustainability

Childhood Workstream

Childhood Workstream

Co-Chairs: Cheefong Chong and Carly Henley

Key priority	Supporting actions	Initiation date	Completion date	Key driver
Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) screening	Provide clinical leadership to support national deployment of Harmony software to enable image sharing across the motu	In progress	Sept 2025	Access
Before School Checks	Audit and gap analysis of Orthoptists and Optometrists to assist with secondary screening	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Regional Variation
	Seek data to inform numbers screened as well as outcomes of screening	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Regional Variation
	Explore existing models of care for regionally employed orthoptists	Oct 2024	Dec 2024	Regional Variation
Workforce pressures	Identify benefits of employing Optometrists in hospital settings (part time FTE) to ease ophthalmology workforce pressures	Oct 2024	June 2025	Workforce & Investment
National Services	Liaise with relevant teams across Health NZ to establish national Genetics and Retinoblastoma approaches	Dec 2024	June 2025	Vulnerable populations/services

Teenage Workstream

Teenage Workstream

Co-Chairs: Haydn Treanor and Liz Conner

Key priority	Supporting actions	Initiation date	Completion date	Key driver
Keratoconus (P)	National stocktake of what is being delivered now, to inform district/ regional models of care	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Equity for Māori and Pacific
	Identify targeted trials for keratoconus screening. Pilot three Districts in either schools, churches or hospitals to support business cases to extend nationally.	Jan 2025	June 2026	Equity for Māori and Pacific
	Stocktake on cross linking to inform models of care	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Regional variation
	Investigate cost-effectiveness of screening high risk teens early to reduce future, costly, surgery.	Jan 2024	June 2025	Sustainability/cost-effectiveness
	Develop national screening guidance to identify new disease, considering topography screening and tomography (Pentacam) for confirmation of diagnosis	June 2025	June 2026	Equity for Māori and Pacific

Adult Workstreams

Key priority	Supporting actions	Initiation date	Completion date	Key driver
Cataracts (P) Co-Chairs: Sam Kain & Liz Kupa	Access national datasets on cataract performance and theatre utilisation by district to better understand national variation	In progress	Ongoing	Minister target for ESPI 2 and ESPI 5
	Explore limiting factors for theatre utilisation and efficient throughput for cataract surgery and identify opportunities in collaboration with Regions &/or the Delivery Unit in order to increase patient throughput without increasing clinical risk.	Sept 2024	July 2025	Reducing waiting times for ESPI 5 target
	Engage and collaborate with regional leadership to explore surgical and outpatient waitlists and achieve national CPAC of 46	In progress	Dec 2025	Regional variation
	Cataract pathway identifying opportunities for direct access for Optometry to wait list, day one telehealth checks, one month post operative calls, etc	In progress	Dec 2024	Rural communities / Care closer to home
	Link into Planned Care Programme for Cataracts and support priority to standardise CPAC to 46	In progress	Sept 2025	Minister target for ESPI 2 and ESPI 5
Diabetic Retinopathy Co-Chairs: Ammar Bin Sadiq & Kath Millichamp	Engage with Pacific Senate on the National Diabetes Plan	In progress	Dec 2024	Equity – Pacific and Māori
	Contribute clinical expertise to Budget 2024 team to support the national diabetes baseline review	In progress	March 2025	Sustainability
	Diabetic retinal screening national stocktake	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Regional variation
	Engage and establish collaborative work programme with Diabetes National Clinical Network Co-Leads on diabetic retinal screening	April 2025	Sept 2025	Equity – Pacific and Māori
	National database for the identification of people with diabetes, to support early screening and management			Prevention