

# Ruruku

Drawing together, binding as one

News from across the motu

**Te Aka Whai Ora**  
Māori Health Authority

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora

## Ruruku – Issue 33

**30 May 2024**

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## **Message from the Chief Executive**

Tālofa lava everyone,

E faatalofa atu ma ou faatulou ile pai'a maualuga o Samoa ua aofia mai aemaise le Pasefika, faapea outou uma ole afaigaluega a le Soifua Maloloina. Soifua manuia i lo outou mamalu. Faafetai ile agalelei ole Atua, ua taitaiina mai lo outou soifua i lenei aso. Fa'amanuia atu le Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa.

O le Autu i lenei tausaga e faapea " Tautua ile Alofa, Manuia le Lumana'i. This year's theme for Samoa Language Week is "Tautua i le alofa, manuia le lumana'i" which means to "Serve in love for a blessed future".

We are looking forward today to Budget announcements by the Government. We also expect an announcement on new Chair for Health NZ in the near future.

We pass on our thanks to Dame Karen Poutasi who will step down as Chair on the 31 May and wish her well. Dame Karen steps down from our Board having been an establishment member and, over the last 11 months, Chair. Our thanks and best wishes to her.

Resident Medical Officers (RMOs) who are members of NZ Resident Doctors Association (NZRDA) are scheduled to strike again, for 49 hours from 7:00am Thursday 30 May to 8:00am Saturday 1 June. The NZRDA represents about half of Health NZ's RMOs.

Simultaneously, the NZ Blood Service has informed us of strike action by its APEX/PSA union members. There is rolling action from 29 May to 19 June – with a full withdrawal of service on 31 May, for four hours for PSA and 24 hours for APEX, and all day on 4 June.

The two strikes overlap for the days of the NZRDA strike and will cause significant disruption to our ability to provide planned care to patients at that time.

We remain committed to working constructively with the NZRDA. Our offer to them includes pay rises for all RMOs, with an average rise of around 18%.

All emergency departments will remain open, and doctors are still available. Unless contacted, people should continue to attend their pre-booked appointments.

Winter is now upon us, so to encourage healthy behaviours that keep our communities safe, informed and up-to-date, we've launched the Go Well winter 2024 campaign. Read the article below to find out more.

Wednesday 5 June is World Environmental Day. The theme encourages us all to "Act now for a sustainable tomorrow". We're all committed to reducing the environmental impact of our healthcare sector. Our actions are focused on lowering emissions, using resources wisely, and moving to a low-carbon model. By incorporating kaitiakitanga and the close relationships between health and the environment, we aim to improve health outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Please save the date in your diary for our upcoming Stakeholder hui – 12 June, 9.45am. This is a great opportunity for you to send through any questions that you would like the guest speakers or myself to answer.

Manuia le aso: Have a great day

Fa'afetai tele lava

Margie Apa

# Stakeholder virtual hui – 12 June, 9.45am



You're invited to join us for our next stakeholder virtual hui which has been rescheduled to **Wednesday 12 June, 9.45–10.30am**. Join here: [Building the future of health](#).

This month we have two guest speakers. First up, we'll have Boyd Broughton, Chief Executive Officer Te Taumata Hauora o Te Kahu o Taonui, Te Tai Tokerau Iwi-Māori Partnership Board (IMPB). Boyd will discuss the value and work of the IMPBs and their relationships with iwi partners to represent the voice of local Māori.

Sonny Taite, our Chief Information Security Officer will follow. Cyber-attacks are on the rise and the health sector is a regular target, given the valuable information health organisations hold. Sonny will share how you can use a range of simple steps and tools to help improve your cyber-security.

You'll have the opportunity to post questions via the event link. In the second half of the hui there will be a focused question and answer session.

And if you missed the last livestream event, all is not lost – you can access a recording and presentation [here](#).

To register or receive an invitation for future events, click here: [Register](#).

## Go Well winter 2024



After the recent cold snap, you could be forgiven for thinking winter had come early, but it's still a week away.

Planning for the usual increase in demand across the healthcare system has been underway for a while. Last week a news story on [Health NZ](#) encouraged New Zealanders to prepare for winter by checking immunisations and getting vaccinated, preparing homes and having a plan if they get sick.

It highlighted the whole system is ready to respond and urged people to think about all services available to help us all to avoid placing extra pressure on busy hospitals.

These include:

- Using Telehealth (Healthline on 0800 611 116 or Rural Telehealth, Ka Ora 0800 252 672)
- Asking your local pharmacist for advice and calling ahead if you are already feeling unwell
- Booking to see your doctor, nurse practitioner or other healthcare provider
- Staying at home, resting and letting your body get better.

This year's Go Well winter campaign is rolling out over the next week and will continue for three months. You will soon see new imagery encouraging people to prepare and look after themselves and whānau over the colder months.

The campaign focuses on what to do to prepare, staying home if sick, and promoting Healthline or Pharmacies as healthcare options for advice and support.

We've also developed a webpage [info.health.nz/GoWell](https://info.health.nz/GoWell) with more detailed advice and information on different illnesses including flu, measles, whooping cough, asthma and rheumatic fever, as well as mental health support and how to prepare your home.

## Protecting against measles webinar



We invite you to watch the webinar on *'Protecting against measles'* which was held on 28 May 2024.

The webinar is open to anyone who is interested in the topic, especially all kaimahi – vaccinators, hauora providers, administrators, kaiāwhina and clinicians.

Topics include:

- Dr Owen Wilson, Māori Paediatrician, President of the Paediatric Society and Chair of the National Immunisation Taskforce shares clinical insights into measles infections and why it's so important to increase measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination rates
- Samantha Marsh from Auckland University shares research on uptake and barriers to vaccination in New Zealand. The need for ensuring kaimahi are vaccinated, and MMR dose zero information.

To watch the webinar recording, click [Protect against measles - webinar 28 May 2024](#).

## Increase in Pertussis (whooping cough) cases



There's been a significant increase in Pertussis cases since the beginning of May.

So far, the cases have been spread across ages ranging from 1 to 65 years. Pertussis can be particularly severe for babies and may require hospital care.

Pertussis comes in cycles of every 3-5 years, and we are currently due.

Please:

- Advise pregnant people of the current increase in Pertussis and recommend the free Boostrix vaccination from 16 weeks in every pregnancy
- Encourage vaccination for the extended whānau of pregnant people, new babies, and infants (noting that some people may not be eligible for a funded vaccine)
- Encourage all staff, including reception and administrative staff, to be protected from Pertussis as well as influenza and measles



- Booster vaccinations of Boostrix are recommended **every five years** for all lead maternity carers and healthcare workers who are in daily contact with infants.

You can find more information online at [Health NZ](#).

## Have your say: take our palliative care survey



Health NZ is redesigning palliative care services and systems to ensure they better meet the palliative and end-of-life care needs of patients, whānau and communities.

Our short survey about palliative care services for adults (those aged over 24) means we can hear directly from New Zealanders who have used these services – either for themselves or a loved one – in the last 5 years, and people working in the health sector.

Your responses will help us develop nationally consistent models of adult palliative and end-of-life care services.

### **Have your say**

Five minutes is all it takes to tell us what is and isn't working well, and what you think are priorities for change.

### **Share the link**

Please [share the survey](#) link with friends, whānau and colleagues who are interested or would like to share their experiences.

The survey [is open now](#) and will continue until Friday 31 May 2024.

Responses will be read by members of Health NZ's Palliative Care Working Group. We'll also share information on the general themes of the responses more widely, including on our website from July 2024. No personal information will be collected or shared.

### More information

Find out more about Palliative Care in Aotearoa New Zealand on our website: [Palliative care](#).

### [Take the survey](#)

## Help inform NZ's review of Aged Care



The Health NZ Ageing Well team is reviewing the model of aged care to make it more consistent and equitable across New Zealand.

If you're aged 65 or over – or are a carer of an older person (aged 65+), we're keen to hear your stories and thoughts on ways to improve the system so it works better for you.

If you'd like to participate in this work, please complete our [confidential survey](#). We expect it'll take 5-10 minutes of your time.

The survey also serves as an opportunity to express interest to get involved in further engagement.

If you choose to provide your name and contact information, we may get in touch to follow up on your responses. You can still participate anonymously if you choose.

Please only respond to the questions you're comfortable answering. All responses will remain strictly confidential.

The survey [is open now](#) and remains open until Monday 10 June 2024.

### [Take the survey.](#)

## 'We're Backing You' this World Smokefree Day – 31 May 2024



Internationally, World Smokefree Day is known as World No Tobacco Day, and is celebrated annually on 31 May. The objectives of World Smokefree May and World Smokefree Day in New Zealand are to raise awareness and contribute to the achievement of the Smokefree 2025 goal.

We're backing all our friends, whānau and communities to quit smoking and support them on their journey to become smokefree. Regardless of what stage of the quit Journey you're at, we tautoko your commitment to your hauora and to your whakapapa to live a smokefree life.

For more information on services to support you or your whānau on their smokefree journey, check out: <https://smokefree.org.nz>.

## National Radiology Network sets sights on system change



Last week the newly established National Radiology Network held its inaugural planning hui in Wellington. The Network agreed it will be targeting improved access and standardised service quality as it embarks on a raft of initiatives to lead improvements across the health system.

Health NZ are leading the Network and Sharyn MacDonald is the Network's first Co-Lead. Sharyn said she was grateful for and inspired by the commitment and resolve the network members had to lead positive change - both for the people providing radiology services and the patients and whānau needing them.

"Radiology is a fundamental enabler of many patient and whānau journeys and a key to lifting the level of care across the system," she says.

The Network's core function is to establish standards and models of care to reduce variation in peoples' access to health services and ultimately improve New Zealanders' health outcomes.

It will also be the clinical partner to Health NZ's overarching radiology transformation across New Zealand. Network members Discussion with the project team leading the early transformation work was a feature of the planning day, which agreed roles, responsibilities and priorities. While some work has begun, the scale and timing of the transformation will be clearer after the current budget setting process. Stakeholders can expect updates about the transformation and the Network's role within that in June.

"Through the work being planned, we now have an opportunity to create a more accessible and responsive radiology service for patients, no matter where they live," Sharyn says.

### **National Clinical Networks programme**

The National Radiology Network has replaced the previous National Radiology Advisory Group (NRAG) and is one of 20 initial Networks being established in the National Clinical Networks programme. The first eight Networks are at various stages of establishment with more to follow soon. Read more about the [National Clinical Networks](#).



## National Radiology Network Members:

Name	Role
Sharyn MacDonald	Clinical Co-Lead
(Vacant)	Clinical Co-Lead
Jash Agraval	Northern Clinical Lead
Kathy Dryden	Northern Co-Lead
Ryan Walkin	Te Manawa Taki Clinical Lead
Sarah Caswell	Te Manawa Taki Co-Lead
Richard Cooper	Central Clinical Lead
Karen Coleman	Central Co-Lead
Jill McConachie	Te Wai Pounamu Clinical Lead
Jenny Taylor	Te Wai Pounamu Co-Lead
(Vacant)	Rural General Practitioner
Stuart Barnard	Digital Workstream Lead
Alistair Rumball-Smith	Data Workstream Lead
James Entwisle	Workforce (Medical) Workstream Lead
Vicki Quincey	Clinical Informatics Lead – Provider Engagement
Cathy Rewiri	Interim National Quality Manager
(Vacant)	Workforce (MIT) Workstream Lead
N.B. The network is supported by a programme manager, network manager and other specialists.	

*Pictured: Sharyn MacDonald, Clinical Co-Lead*

## Collaborating and connecting with local breast screening services



BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) held a fono/wānanga in Kirikiriroa last week. Over 50 representatives gathered from local Support to Screen Service providers, Pacific providers, hauora Māori providers and local cancer screening coordinators. Local Health New Zealand kaimahi who work in the screening and equity space were also included in the numbers, joining in the kōrero on how we can better serve wahine and their whānau on breast screening.

As the first of a series of fono/wānanga being held across the motu over the next few months, it was an opportunity for BSA and our governance group Pae Whakaterere to collaborate and listen to whakaaro on the barriers wāhine Māori and Pacific women face in accessing breast screening services. Actions are also being gathered to be addressed within the programme's delivery of services.

Some of the whakaaro from the fono/wānanga included having more Māori and Pacific kaimahi in the screening workforce, more mobiles that are able to reach rural communities, providing better data access for screening services, and having stronger connections with local services who serve wahine and their whānau.

Māori Women's Welfare League Secretary, Tainui Regional Council, Pare Ruha attended the fono/wānanga. Pare said, "being a breast cancer survivor, we need to encourage our rangatahi on the importance of screening. Rangatahi listen to our kuia, they value our kuia, they show them respect. There's power and influence with our kuia to educate and inform on screening."

Ngā mihi nui – a big thank you to our kaumātua for the fono/wānanga, Gary Thompson (Community Waikato), the K'aute Pasifika Trust team for hosting us, and for all the services who attended.

More information on BreastScreen Aotearoa is available on the [Time to Screen website](#).

## Pacific Health team wins award for Cyclone Gabrielle work



The Hawke's Bay Pacific Health team has received the 2024 Pasifika Public Health Award. This recognised the team's outstanding service to Pacific families and communities, as well as contributions to public health in Hawke's Bay, – especially last year during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Noreen Tully and Tumema Mita'i, Co- Interim Managers for Pacific Health, recall the moments they realised how serious the situation was.

"I woke up the morning of the cyclone and ran outside to see if we were okay," says Tumema. "And everything looked fine—the power was out, but that seemed the worst of it.

"But then someone sent me a video of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers on top of roofs. You could see how high the floodwaters were, and they were still rising, and doors and fridges and animals were floating by. I just thought, oh my gosh, I need to get out there and help."

Tofilau Talalelei Taufale, from the national Pacific Health team, had put together a Pacific response plan in the days leading up to the cyclone. Unable to get to Hastings on the day the cyclone hit, he called and asked for the Pacific Health team to mobilise and head down to the Hastings Sports Stadium to provide clinical and cultural support for Pacific people.

"The community started to pour in," says Noreen. "People were soaked through, some were injured, and many of them were traumatised – they had seen their homes flooded, some had seen their animals swept away by floodwaters right in front of them."

"We had big RSE groups coming in, hundreds and hundreds of people, and there just wasn't enough resource available. So, we worked with our community to quickly stand up six more Pacific evacuation centres for our RSE workers across Hastings and Napier, to vacate the main evacuation centres for the rest of our local community." Noreen says.

One of the learnings from the cyclone was how unprepared the community was to deal with such loss.

"We are actively preparing our emergency plans for any future event—we're now savvy about partnership with local councils, the Red Cross and the communities we serve. Before this, there was nothing in place. Now, funding is being put into preparedness, training and building emergency capability for the future of our communities."

To read the story, click [here](#).

*Pictured: The Hawke's Bay Pacific Health team*

## Showcasing our success to the world with NZ's first wound debridement competency course



The development of New Zealand's first wound debridement competency course was presented to thousands of people at the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) Conference in London earlier this month.

Health NZ Southern Clinical Nurse Specialist (Wound Care) Mandy Pagan, who is based at Southland Hospital, presented at the conference. She outlined how the course was instigated and implemented, and the stakeholders involved.

The course through Te Pūkenga has been going for three years now, with the aim of establishing New Zealand's first qualification in wound debridement that provides competency in conservative sharp wound debridement.

Mandy, who is marking 31 years with Health NZ Southern this year, says "It's a privilege to be able to tell people about the course and what was developed here."

The theme of this year's conference in London from May 1 to 3 is "Collaborative and sustainable wound care: making everyone's contribution count."

Mandy said "I was the only nurse to present and the only New Zealander. To attend, it helps to demonstrate the Kiwi Can-Do attitude. Networking at international summits is invaluable. We're able to showcase that we are world leaders and have great support to be able to do this from our nursing, management and medical teams."

Co-author of the course, Rebecca Aburn also attended the EWMA Conference with Mandy. She spoke about COVID-19 and the increased numbers noted in patients with pyoderma and how these may be connected.

For information about the conference read here: [EWMA 2024 Conference](#).

*Pictured: Mandy Pagan, Clinical Nurse Specialist*

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