

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



Ken Whelan
Chair
Whanganui District Health Board
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30 SEP 2021

Tenā koe Ken

Whanganui District Health Board 2021/22 Annual Plan

This letter is to advise you that we have jointly approved and signed Whanganui District Health Board's (DHB's) 2021/21 annual plan (Plan) for one year.

When setting expectations for 2021/22 it was acknowledged that your Plan would be developed in a period where our COVID-19 response, recovery and immunisation programmes remained a key focus and therefore planning requirements were streamlined towards your DHB's work to improve equity and to embed lessons and innovations from COVID-19. Thank you for providing a strong plan for these areas.

Your Plan for 2021/22 will be delivered in an environment where this work continues to be of critical importance and where our system transition process is underway. We acknowledge that providing clarity on the critical areas for improvement through transition is helpful and, on that basis, we are confirming the top challenges that will be of focus for us through 2021/22:

- Keeping COVID-19 out of communities.
- Supporting the mental wellbeing of people, particularly of youth and young people.
- Ensuring child wellbeing, particularly through increased immunisation.
- Managing acute demand.
- Managing planned care.

More broadly, we also acknowledge the importance of your Board delivering on the Plan in a fiscally prudent way.

We invite you to work closely with your regional Chair colleagues to share your skills, expertise, and problem-solving efforts to ensure progress is achieved in these top challenges. As performance progress is discussed through the year, we will look forward to hearing about your joint efforts and progress.

Please note that approval of your Plan does not constitute acceptance of proposals for service changes that have not undergone review and agreement by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), including changes in FTE. Please ensure that you advise the Ministry as early as possible of any proposals for service change that may require Ministerial approval. Approval of the Plan also does not constitute approval of any capital business cases or requests for equity support that have not been approved through the normal process.

Your 2021/22 Plan provides an important foundation to ensure our health system delivers for New Zealanders during the period of system transition and we expect all DHBs will be disciplined in delivery of their plans.

Please ensure that a copy of this letter is attached to any copies of your signed plan made available to the public.

Ngā mihi nui



Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Cc Russell Simpson
Chief Executive