

Notes of the 79th meeting of the Health Quality & Safety Commission Board on 17 September 2020 via Zoom.

Members: Dr Dale Bramley (Chair), Dr Jenny Parr, Mena Antonio, Rae Lamb, Prof Peter Crampton, Shenagh Gleisner (left the meeting at 10.45am), Dr Tristram Ingham, Dr Collin Tukuitonga, Dr Wil Harrison.

Staff: *In attendance:* Dr Janice Wilson, Bevan Sloan, Dr Iwona Stolarek, Richard Hamblin, Stephanie Turner, Chris Walsh, Lizzie Price, Gillian Bohm, Kere Pomare, Tina Simcock (Minutes) Paula Farrand (EA to the Board), Jo Sorasio (item 6), Shelley Hanifan (item 7-9), Carl Shuker (item 8).

Guests: Ria Earp – Chair, Te Rōpū Māori; Rowena Lewis – Chair, Consumer Advisory Group, Morag McDowell, Health & Disability Commissioner, Mr John Tait, chair Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Dame Allison Paterson, former board member.

Apologies: Mr Andrew Connolly.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were **approved**.
- The actions of the previous meeting were **updated** and **noted**.
- The interests register, and special register of interests were **updated**.
- Members board related activities were **noted**.
- The financial report and risk register were **approved**.
- The chief executive report was **noted**.

Key decisions – the Board:

- a) **Agreed** long-term cost pressures will be presented at next board meeting.
- b) **Agreed** the chair and chief executive will sign-off the final briefing to the Minister after amendments have been made.
- c) **Approved** the extension appointments of the four consumer advisory group members.

Finance report

The finance report was taken as read. The current surplus is largely due to a reduction in travel due to COVID-19. A longer-term forecast will be available at the October board meeting.

Risk management – six monthly review

The chair of the board's audit committee led a discussion on risk management. It was agreed the board have this discussion every six months, to review the Commission's positioning in relation to risk.

There was discussion on current key risks and considerations. These included the recovery from COVID-19, health system reforms and positioning the Commission for the future, the importance of continuing to have a strong focus on equity and advancing Māori health, the need for the Commission to continue to show its impact, and future sustainability of the Commission.

Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee report

The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) chair introduced the PMMRC's 14th Annual Report 2020. He said while there has been a significant reduction in deaths overall, this is largely driven by a reduction in stillbirths in babies of New Zealand European women, but no significant change in any other ethnic group. Babies of Māori,

Pacific and Indian mothers; and babies of mothers aged less than 20 years remain at higher risk of serious adverse outcomes.

This report includes a challenge to the sector and stakeholders to action the recommendations. PMMRC also remains very concerned about maternal suicide.

There was discussion about how inequities could be addressed. In particular, of the recommendations that haven't been implemented, what are the priorities? What would make the most difference? There was also comment that the report could be made more relevant to consumers.

PMMRC was asked to summarise the three or four recommendations that could make the biggest difference in the short term, and re-frame the recommendations accordingly.

The chair thanked PMMRC and the committee secretariat for the comprehensive report.

Briefing to the Incoming Minister

The briefing to the incoming minister (BIM) was taken as read. Board members suggested minor changes and expressed appreciation for the extent that their previous comments had been taken on board.

Final changes will be made as a result of feedback, and the BIM will then be signed off by the chair and chief executive.

Resilient health care and iwi engagement publication

Carl Shuker talked to the board about the upcoming publication of the article *Aotearoa New Zealand's resilient health care during COVID-19*, which has been developed in a Te Tiriti-based partnership with iwi and Māori providers. The publication brings together the stories of the Māori COVID response, and links them to the thinking about resilient health care. It is proposed for publication in the Spin-Off Ātea, the dedicated Māori affairs online channel of the Spin-Off.

The board congratulated Carl on the piece and made suggestions about messages that could be further emphasised. We need to be clear that the Commission is facilitating and providing a platform for the sharing of these stories, and what others can learn from them.

Consumer advisory group appointment terms

The board approved the extension of appointment terms for the four consumer advisory group members.