

Notes of the 88th meeting of the Health Quality & Safety Commission Board on 29th October 2021 held via Zoom.

- Members: Dr Dale Bramley (Chair), Prof Peter Crampton, Shenagh Gleisner, Dr Tristram Ingham, Rae Lamb, Dr Jenny Parr, Dr Collin Tukuitonga.
- Staff: *In attendance:* Dr Janice Wilson, Gillian Bohm, Richard Hamblin, Kere Pomare, Martin Thomas, Stephanie Turner, Chris Walsh, Paula Farrand (EA to the Board), Shelley Hanifan (minutes).
- Guests: Rowena Lewis – Chair, Consumer Advisory Group, Ria Earp – Chair, Te Rōpū Māori, Dr Clive Bensemenn – Clinical Lead, Mental Health and Addiction (item 10).
- Apologies: Mena Antonio, Wil Harrison, Victoria Evans, Bevan Sloan, Morag McDowell

- 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**.
- A patient story was provided by way of a video.
- The chief executive report was **noted**.
- The financial report and risk register were **discussed**.

Key decisions – the board:

- a) **Agreed:** that a template and proposal for regular and ongoing analysis of the impacts of COVID-19, for public reporting, would be developed for consideration at the next board meeting.
- b) **Agreed:** that the Commission will have a mandatory requirement for COVID-19 vaccination of all staff
- c) **Agreed:** to one-year selective appointments to mortality review committees from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, where required
- d) **Agreed:** to extending terms of appointment to 31 December 2022 for those appointments which are due to come to an end in 2022
- e) **Agreed:** to recommended appointment of two committee members to the Perioperative Mortality Review Committee from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022
- f) **Agreed:** to recommended appointment of two committee members to Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

The role of the Commission in the quality, safety and equity challenges of living with COVID-19

Board members focused on the need for good, publicly available information, particularly on the impacts of COVID-19 in the system, and also across the impacts of system transition. In particular, tracking the impacts on health equity for particular groups, including Māori, Pacific and disabled people, was seen as important. The desire to stay ahead, and identify gaps early was expressed.

The 'Window on Quality 2022 – COVID-19' (Window 2022) will provide a useful starting point for ongoing analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on our health system. Following the publication of the Window 2022, regular analysis and publication will be useful, on an ongoing basis.

The board discussed the Commission's ability to be responsive to the issues that will be raised within these analyses. The Commission can also seek funding to assist in this work.

Update on education programme

A presentation was provided on the Commission's *Ako tahi hei whakapai ake i te kounga | Improving together: Building capability for quality and safety training and education programme*.

The board thanked the team for this work and for the presentation. A number of questions were asked about how the work ensures the Commission's equity, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi priorities are advanced.

It was noted that the Commission had worked hard to ensure that this work was positioned to advance these strategic priorities and that evaluation is in place to ensure that we track our success.

The importance of sharing this good work with Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority was noted. The need to 'ramp up' this work has been highlighted to the Minister and will be a point of discussion with the Transition Unit. It was noted that specific Māori models and content will likely be required by the Māori Health Authority, and the Commission should be considering how we might help with this.

Update on mental health and addiction programme

A presentation was provided on the Mental Health and Addiction Quality Improvement Programme, describing:

- Programme establishment and focus areas
- Programme achievements
- Current progress and issues
- Programme planning for two-year extension to June 2024

Positive signs of improvements in seclusion rates were highlighted. The board asked about significant outliers and it was confirmed that the programme is focused on outliers – both by geography, but also circumstances (eg, weekend admission impacts seclusion rates). Implicit bias and different understandings of clinical responsibility also impact.

The lagging vaccination rate for mental health and addiction service users was discussed, alongside other health inequities. Service transitions are very important and will need to be a focus for Health New Zealand.

The chair thanked the mental health and addiction programme team for their good work, and particularly for their efforts in seclusion and improving equity for Māori.

Mortality Review – planning for 2022 and Mortality Review Committee appointments

The board agreed to the recommendations made, noting that:

- the timeframe for delivery of the review of the National Mortality Review Function has been extended to March 2022.
- all mortality review committee appointments are notified to the Minister of Health's office before they are confirmed and are subject to Ministry of Justice background checks.

The board considered a range of appointments to the Mortality Review Committees.

Older Māori in aged residential care in Aotearoa

The board discussed the paper provided, and particularly wanted to thank the authors for this work. They requested that the paper be forwarded to the new Aged Care Commissioner, once in the role. They encouraged a dissemination plan through the Commission's existing networks, with a focus on funders / commissioners of services and aged residential care associations.