



**Health Quality &
Safety Commission**
Te Tāhū Hauora

Minutes of the Health Quality & Safety Commission Board

Meeting No. 117

18 June 2026

10:00am – 3:30pm

133 Molesworth Street, Wellington

Chair: Rae Lamb

Board Attendees: Taima Campbell, Clare Perry, Pete Watson, Tereki Stewart (Teams), Monica Goldwater

Commission Attendees: Sunny Collings, Bevan Sloan, Adrian Portis/Raoul Sarup (minutes), Flo Walker (Board Secretary), Simon Medcalf (item 3), Holly Bodiam (item 4), Martin Thomas (items 10, 11, 12)

Apologies: Rakesh Patel

Guests: Ria Earp, Chair, Te Kāhui Piringa
Morag McDowell, Health and Disability Commissioner (Teams)
Amanda Stevens, Co-Chair Consumer Advisory Group

	Opening and karakia <i>The hui began at 10am.</i>
1	Board-only time Clare to advise Flo regarding update for interests register. Tereki declared possible conflict of interest regarding item in CE report on Whaitua tool if it comes up for discussion (it didn't).
2	Board and Chief Executive time Board sought and received reassurance that staff have been reminded of public service guidelines during election period and what is expected.

2.1	Next steps NZIER report Simon Medcalf The Director HQI updated the board regarding the process for revising the NZIER report and where things are at with the process, noting that the anticipated timeframe for finalising the report is by end of June. Members discussed the need for robust peer review of this report and other significant publications by the Commission to ensure integrity of process and findings. Action: Board asked that Board papers for all further significant publications clearly indicate what quality assurance has been undertaken.
2.2	Consumer Advisory function update Holly Bodiam Members noted that the current consumer advisory arrangements are not working as well as they could, but that until the consumer function is better embedded within the Commission's processes, the advisory function to the board should continue. Members felt that the consumer advisory function should reflect best practice and demonstrate to external viewers how it can be incorporated into an organisation's work. Members agreed that decisions would be made on the future of the consumer advisory function to the board once the board is reassured that the work underneath is functioning well, modelling best practice and meeting the QSM requirements. Members felt that the next iteration of this paper should emphasise that the Commission is 'absolutely committed and being a leader' with regard to consumer input and should explain why any proposed change is happening and how it strengthens governance. Action: Members agreed a revised paper should come to the board for the next meeting, to be circulated as a draft paper prior.
	<i>The Chair of Te Kāhui Piringa, the Health and Disability Commissioner and the Co-Chair of the Consumer Advisory Group were welcomed to the meeting at 11:45am.</i>
5	Consensus items Rae Lamb • People, Culture & Capability Quarter 3 Dashboard • Pae Ora Act changes
6	Health and Disability Commissioner update Morag McDowell The Commissioner noted the likely year end position for the HDC and challenges for the year ahead. The Commissioner thanked HQSC for its collaboration on the recently released Window on Disability. Called for a cross-agency approach. The Commissioner noted that the National Quality Forum would benefit from more ownership by participants for the actions identified for improving quality and safety.

7	Chief Executive report Sunny Collings Discussion focused on the Commission's recent attendance at the Health Roundtable and the value gained from engagement. Members discussed development of a needs assessment framework and requested a presentation on the Commission's needs assessment tool Action: Members welcomed the release of the Window on Disability report and asked what further work the Commission would be doing in this space and requested a report back in the next three months.
8	Finance and IT security update Risk report Bevan Sloan & Adrian Portis Updates on expected end of financial year financial results and risks were provided. Members discussed the small surplus originally indicated – revised to approx. \$250k and what options existed for reallocating it, including a primary care focus. It was agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the next Audit Committee meeting. An additional topic for the Audit Committee meeting was proposed around board sign-off of the budget and what the process has been and should be in future – are any changes needed? It was noted that Rakesh Patel would be joining the Audit Committee. The chair noted that a future discussion regarding 'risk appetite' is proposed.
9	Budgets and three-year financial sustainability Bevan Sloan The Director Finance and Digital provided an overview of future funding opportunities, pressures and risks.
	<i>Lunch</i>
10	System Safety Strategy Martin Thomas Passed on congratulations to the System Safety team for finalising the System Safety Strategy, which has now been approved for release. The Director of Safety and Quality noted that the crucial next step is working with other agencies to develop and implement the time-bound action plan. The agencies that we think will be critical in driving the Strategy forward have been identified and the Commission will be calling for senior leaders to engage on its implementation.
11	Primary Care update Martin Thomas The Commission is holding a workshop with senior primary care sector leaders in early July. The aim of the workshop is to identify areas of work for the Commission in primary care that will add the most value and drill down into specifics of what activity could occur in a work programme Board members noted that the Commission needs to be clear about the impact it wants to make, look to be innovative where there are opportunities to do so, and

	ensure that voices are represented – including what the consumer voice tells us, not just clinicians. Members noted that there are opportunities to tie primary care work into a range of current work areas, including the System Safety Strategy and mortality review cardiovascular disease work.
12	Learning from harm reports Martin Thomas The Director of Safety and Quality outlined the purpose of each of the learning from harm reports, noting that the increase in reporting is due to the inclusion of aged residential care (ARC) and that the Commission has sought to triangulate findings with other data sources. The learning from harm reports can now be linked back to the System Safety Strategy. Members suggested acknowledging that the ultimate aim of harm reporting is to reduce harm for people affected by it, not just about system learning. This will now be acknowledged up front in the Commission's reporting. Questions were raised around how this work applies in a primary care context, including the process for reporting these types of events in primary care. The board also asked the Commission to consider other parts of the health system where risk may be being transferred. The Board discussed whether there was an opportunity to learn from lower levels of SAC reporting (SAC 3 and 4). The Commission does not have access to that information currently, but there may be an opportunity to work with Health NZ on this, particularly on one system to monitor across the sector. The Board noted that whilst not included for this work (due to timing) in the future published work should be presented to the board alongside a quality assurance audit trail. Information on this to be included in future papers. Decision on paper recommendations 1. approved, but acknowledge that the ultimate aim of harm reporting is to reduce harm, not just system learning. Does not need to come back to the Board 2. approved 3. approved
13	Consensus items (noting papers) Rae Lamb 13.1 Minutes of meeting held 9 April 2026 13.2 Actions update from 9 April 2026 13.3 Board activities 13.4 Declared interests register 13.5 Audit Committee briefing May 2026 13.6 Audit Committee draft minutes – 4 May 2026 13.7 ComplyWith Survey Results 13.8 Quarter 3 Report for MoH 13.9 Publication of the <i>Surgery and risk in New Zealand</i> report 13.10 Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation – Submission 13.11 People, Culture & Capability Quarter 3 Dashboard

	Questions were raised about the pay gap by ethnicity. The Director of People, Culture and Capability can be contacted with questions, noting that small numbers and the nature of some roles make the numbers difficult to interpret The Board asked the Director of Finance and Digital about whether the Commission's leave liability will be better in Q4. The Commission is still pushing for staff to have leave plans in place for high leave balances. 13.12 Disability Workforce Data and Approach 13.13 Ministerial Briefing 13.14 Correspondence 13.15 Board requests for next agenda 13.16 Sector events
14	Board meeting review Next agenda: - Presentation on the needs assessment framework - Next steps on primary care work programme - Revised paper should come to the board for the next meeting, to be circulated as a draft paper prior. Draft dates for 2027 will be sent out in the week beginning 22/06. Looking at Thursdays every two months The Commission has received a 'new approach to monitoring' plan from the Ministry of Health and the chair is providing feedback to the Ministry. Copies of what we have received, and our response, will be provided to members – with further discussions to come Need to review how the Teams displays in hybrid meetings to ensure everyone can participate for next meeting
	Karakia to close <i>The hui closed at 3:15pm.</i>