

# Minutes of the Board: Meeting No. 112

## 8 August 2025

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| <b>Date</b>                 | 8 August 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Time</b>                 | 10.00 am – 3.40 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Venue</b>                | Te Tāhū Hauora, 650 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Chair</b>                | Rae Lamb                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Board members</b>        | Taima Campbell, Shenagh Gleisner, David Lui, Ron Paterson, Clare Perry, Pete Watson.                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Te Tāhū Hauora staff</b> | Kere Pomare, Bevan Sloan, Adrian Portis (minutes), Paula Farrand (Board Secretary), Richard Hamblin (item 9), Heidi Cannell and Ana Spada (item 10), Don Matheson (item 11), Kelly Palmer (items 12 & 13).                       |
| <b>Apologies</b>            | Tristram Ingham. Tereki Stewart joined meeting between 1pm–2.30pm.                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Guests</b>               | Ria Earp, Chair, Te Kāhui Piringa (Teams)<br>Angie Smith, Co-chair, Te Kāhui Mahi Ngātahi<br>Morag McDowell, Health and Disability Commissioner (Teams)<br>Dr Liza Edmonds, Chair, National Mortality Review Committee (item 11) |

*The hui began at 10.00 am.*

### 1. Board only time

### 2. Board and Chief Executive time

*The chair welcomed the chair of Te Kāhui Piringa, the co-chair of Te Kāhui Mahi Ngātahi and the Health and Disability Commissioner to the meeting at 11.40 am.*

### 3. Interests register

**Rae Lamb**

Updates to the Interests Register are to be provided to the board secretary.

Introductions to new board members were given for those on screen.

### 4. Health and Disability Commissioner report

**Morag McDowell**

The Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) joined virtually to present her report and discussed various issues with the board, including:

- The importance of patient notes which had featured recently in media around the clinical use of artificial intelligence and digitisation of records. From an HDC

perspective one of the biggest areas of risk is transition of care and patient notes are an important part of this.

- That the Aged Care Commissioner had resigned and would be finishing in August
- That they are currently working on a report focused on maternity.

**Action** - It was agreed that the HDC report on maternity would be circulated to the Board when it is provided to the Commission.

## 5. Patient story

**Paula Farrand**

The board secretary noted that she would share the Patient Story video at the next meeting due to technical issues.

## 6. Te Kāhui Mahi Ngātahi environmental scan

**Angie Smith**

Te Kāhui Mahi Ngātahi co-chair provided board members with the regular environmental scan which was taken as read.

The co-chair

- outlined the range of consumer advisory contributing groups, particularly the rangitahi voice and noted that a report is due for the November meeting around a review of consumer input.
- noted that a good understanding of Pae Ora changes that are to happen will be helpful.

A board member asked:

- about the item in the report that referred to open access to health notes and what the core issue was. There was discussion around the Practice Management System tool that enables people to make records open access and put caveats on them.
- if there had been any changes to the consumer infrastructure situation. The response was that there have been mixed results – some in the South Island in particular are progressing but in other areas there is less progress. There is a push for district and locality voices but this is yet to happen to any significant extent – it is still at the higher level currently.

It was noted that following Health New Zealand's creation a lot of local capability was lost but now there appears to be a move back to developing capability at local levels following the centralisation process over recent years and an opportunity to do some things differently.

## 7. Chief Executive report

**Kere Pomare**

The Chief Executive report was taken as read.

The Board thanked Kere and Bevan for their time covering the chief executive role and Shenagh for covering the board chair role recently.

The report was commended for its quality.

Discussion focused on the Whaitua tool which has been published with creative commons licence. There was general discussion regarding ownership of the tool when government funding is used for development. The intention is that the Commission will continue to host it for the short to medium term but not undertake further work on developing or updating the tool.

It was noted that:

- discussions are continuing regarding how the tool might be developed into the future by Iwi Māori Partnership Boards.
- a decision about where the Whaitua tool is ultimately hosted when it moves outside of the Commission is yet to be made.

It was suggested that Te Kāhui Piringa could contribute to discussions around the future of the tool and where it might be hosted longer term.

It was agreed that the Commission would work with board members and potentially Te Kāhui Piringa to facilitate next steps and resolve outstanding issues.

**Action** – An update in the next Chief Executive's report was requested.

Updates were requested on the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research work and for the circulation of the strategic communications document that was prepared earlier this year for the benefit of the new members.

**Action** – the chair requested that the strategic communications paper be shared with the new board members.

A board member suggested that the Chief Executive's report could also be used to look forward at upcoming work and progress against deliverables, as well as the period since the last board meeting.

A board member noted how good the most recent Insights reporting looked and asked if there had been any feedback from the Minister on it.

## 8. Finance and risk report

Bevan Sloan

The finance report was taken as read.

The Director of Finance and Digital was congratulated on his work to resolve the earlier forecast underspend.

The Board discussed the opportunity to be strategic with future underspends by getting an indication earlier if there are likely to be unspent funds and give consideration to where these could be redirected to achieve the most benefit and be less reactive later in the financial year.

It was agreed that a future board discussion could focus on financial strategy and in the event of unspent funds, where this could be best redirected.

The risk report was taken as read.

Minor amendments were requested and discussion focused on the format and the nature of the risks identified in the report.

Board members asked if the Board goes through a risk appetite process and if the Commission was satisfied that mitigations were addressing residual risks.

It was noted that new board members should be adding relevant share holdings and other relevant information to the register.

The Board agreed that the February board strategy day would include a session focused on risk.

## **9. Operationalising a focus in primary care**

**Richard Hamblin and Catherine Gerard**

The Director and Associate Director of Health Quality Intelligence (HQI) joined the meeting virtually.

The Director noted that the current approach to primary care across the organisation has sometimes lacked a cohesive approach and that the paper addressed this.

A board member noted that the findings from the Insights reporting sets a good platform and queried what other conversations have been held to identify challenges and key areas of focus? It was suggested that further discussions with General Practice New Zealand would be useful.

Discussion focused on the Commission's mandate in primary care and what the legislation enables and requires, which was identified as monitoring and enabling the sector. How this is undertaken in primary care was the focus of the paper.

A board member noted that patient safety and quality of care should be the main drivers of our work – not necessarily what providers want.

It was suggested that more clarity around a theory of change for primary care work would be helpful and that further discussions with the primary care sector were needed to get agreement on approaches and priority areas.

The Board noted that the topic would be on the agenda again for the November meeting.

## **10. Draft Annual Report 2024/05**

**Adrian Portis, Heidi Cannell, Ana Spada**

The Manager, Principal Advisor and Senior Advisor of Strategic Support and Accountability attended for this item.

The Board noted the quality of the draft annual report and how much had been prepared in a short timeframe. Discussion covered:

- the improved strategic content at the front of the draft report
- whether the draft report could be shortened
- whether the year-on-year comparisons could be reduced or more infographics included
- the need to ensure that any claims of improvement are substantiated.

An additional one page 'year in review' graphic summary was suggested as an easy to digest reflection of what the Commission has achieved over the year.

It was suggested that the introduction or foreword could highlight a selection of the most significant achievements for the year.

## **11. Mortality Review programme of work**

**Don Matheson/Liza Edmonds**

The Chair and Director of the National Mortality Review Committee (NMRC) joined the meeting.

The Director clarified for the Board what the criteria are for determining annual focus areas. The Board noted that these criteria were applicable across different areas and could be applied to the primary care work that the Commission is considering.

The NMRC Chair noted the importance of focusing on data and the need to guide the work programme focus areas, rather than being influenced by other external factors.

The Board suggested that a paragraph at the start explaining why the areas of focus have been selected would be beneficial for those picking it up fresh. It was agreed the plan would be improved by some additional introductory and rationale content and some definitions around treatable/avoidable mortality.

The Director gave a timeframe breakdown of items for delivery this calendar year.

The Board approved the 2025/26 work programme subject to minor edits and requested a November update and quarterly updates on progress.

## **12. Code of expectations review update**

**Kelly Palmer**

The acting Director of Māori Health and Consumer joined the meeting virtually. He noted that the code of expectations review endorses that the code is a valuable resource and that the team is currently working through development of an action plan, with next steps the finalising and implementation of the action plan and to advise the Minister of the process and outcomes.

Board members noted the lack of awareness across the sector around the code and felt this needs to be addressed. It was noted that a breakdown of which entities were participating would add useful context. Changes to the Pae Ora Act were also raised as potentially having an effect on this work and a noting paper was requested.

The Board agreed on the approach proposed in the paper.

## **13. Strengthening the consumer engagement function and appointment extension**

**Kelly Palmer**

The acting Director of Māori Health and Consumer joined the meeting virtually.

The Board approved the recommendations in the paper.

It was suggested the Board be canvassed on how the relationship with the Consumer Advisory Group can be improved.

## **14. Standard business**

### **14.1 Minutes of the meeting held 13 June 2025**

**Rae Lamb**

No changes were made to the previous minutes, which were taken as read and approved.

### **14.2 Actions update from 13 June 2025**

**Rae Lamb**

No updates were made to the actions.

### **14.4 Board activities**

**Rae Lamb**

Additional board activities are to be provided to the Board Secretary.

## **15. Noting papers**

All papers were taken as read.

**Action:** A copy of the recent Select Committee transcript and a link to the hearing was requested for members along with a copy of the most recent questions.

### **Agenda items for 3 October meeting**

The following items will be included in the agenda for the 3 October board meeting:

- NZIER report

## **16. Meeting review**

Board members noted that it had been a productive and useful meeting covering a range of topics.

*The meeting closed at 3.40 pm with a karakia.*