

---

# MEMO

---

**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Jenny Black, Chair  
**Date:** 20 June 2018  
**Subject:** **Chair's Report**

---

## *Status*

This report contains:

- For decision
- Update
- Regular report
- For information

Kia ora Koutou

Given my absence at the last two Board meetings, I thought I would give you an update of my activity. Holiday pics available on request!

I was privileged to be invited to the International Health Workforce Collaborative. This is a group of health researchers, and those interested in health workforce, from the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. They meet biennially, this was their first meeting in NZ, and the topic was Effective Healthcare in Rural Communities, for Transitory Populations and Innovative Solutions. Throughout all the jurisdictions the issues in common were how we shift the discussion from hospital needs, doctors providing care and expensive healthcare to a variety of people providing care, care at home or in the community, the use of IT solutions and involving the client/patient in the conversation. The interesting aspect was that there is not one solution; each community will find their own but we must learn from each other and we must involve the client and their families.

### **South Island Alliance**

Last week, the South Island Alliance Board met with the Ministerial Advisory Group, led by Sir Brian Roche and with Heather Simpson who is leading the Health Sector Review. We presented to them the successes and challenges of providing health services in the South Island - elderly population, geographical spread, rural and remote communities, and as a group of DHBs we now require some serious capital spend on our infrastructure, ie every South Island DHB is in the middle of building or planning buildings. We also presented our strategic aims for the next year - how we will address equity of services, the continual roll out of our IT systems, shifting care and the workforce/IT required to do this.

### **Health Sector Review**

The Health Sector Review Group is yet to be named and has until December 2019 to report. The review will not be looking at PHARMAC, Disabilities, ACC and Private Health Insurance. The draft Terms of Reference can be seen on the Ministry of Health website. A reassuring comment from Ms Simpson was that the system is not broken but given that it was designed in 2001, a lot has changed since then, and it needs to be tweaked.

### **Ministerial Review Group**

This group was set up by the Minister of Health to advise him on changes which needed to occur at the Ministry after several damning reviews and the reset required for the Ministry and the sector to work together. Sir Brian commented that the people who work in health have a strong work ethic, but the configuration is clunky and some of the transactional costs are high. He thought there was still quite a strong institutional focus and that some of the systems in place made it hard to change that.

### **Dr Ashley Bloomfield, DG of Health**

Known to us at the National Chairs and CEs forum, his most recent role was as CE of Capital & Coast Health, it was great to be able to give him a warm welcome as the DG on day 4 of his new role.

Ashley brings a fresh approach to this job - he is medically trained, has worked in the health system in many roles (Public Health Physician, CE), internationally at WHO and also a stint in the Ministry, so he has a vast experience to use as he resets the Ministry's relationship with the sector and rebuilds the Ministry team. We all look forward to supporting him in this.

### **National Chairs**

This group is looking ahead to the next DHB elections and how we can ensure that elected members are well informed of what is expected of them, at the time of nomination, and the education that they require once elected. This work has come about after the workshop that was provided in Wellington last year and the feeling that it was not value for money or time. A small group of Chairs has been working with the Institute of Directors and the Ministry of Health on a work programme that individual DHBs could use depending on their identified needs. It was suggested that rather than a national day that we might work regionally. This planning continues.

We welcomed the three new Chairs from the three Auckland DHBs (Pat Sneddon, Auckland; Mark Gosche, Counties Manukau; and Judy MacGregor, Waitemata).

Looking ahead, each DHB is being invited to a workshop with the Ministry to discuss this year's annual plan. Our meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> July, six days after the plan has begun!!

Lastly, thank you to Alan for taking care of business at NMH in my absence. I appreciate the extra time involved, meetings at the DHB and also a trip to Wellington to meet the Minister. Thank you.

Jenny Black  
**Chair**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT THE CHAIR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED.**