

30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Hon Andrew Little  
Minister of Health  
Freepost Parliament  
Private Bag 18 888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

PO Box 25-716

St Heliers  
Auckland 1071

Dear Minister

### **Urgent request for further amendments to the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) legislation**

In my 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 letter to you I referred to your “five key shifts” [speech](#) and proposed a further essential sixth key shift - the embedding of health research as an essential component of the health system. I said that this will have a significant additional impact on the health system’s ability to address the paramount issues of achieving equity of outcomes, as well as reduce amenable and non-amenable premature mortality and antecedent and other morbidity.

NZHR subsequently [submitted](#) along these lines to the Pae Ora Legislation Committee and we were encouraged to see that the most recent version of the Bill includes new provisions for Health New Zealand (HNZ) and the Māori Health Authority (MHA) to “undertake and support research relating to health” and for the MHA to “evaluate the delivery and performance of services provided or funded by the Māori Health Authority” (replicating the existing similar requirement for HNZ).

We were also pleased to see the new requirements for HNZ and the MHA to take into account the role of the Health Research Council in developing the New Zealand Health Plan, and we have favourably noted the 2022 Budget’s new Ministry of Health funding of \$23m for “health science research, leadership, analysis and publishing quality evidence, data and insights”,

However, while acknowledging all of the above, there remain two critical elements of NZHR’s submission which continue to be unaddressed by the Bill. These include requirements for health sector plans, services and programmes to be evidence based, and for inclusion of a health research strategy.

We believe that an evidence based approach to service planning and delivery will be critical both to achieving improved and equitable health outcomes and to ensuring the elimination of the postcode lottery pattern of service delivery. Inclusion of a health research strategy will further embed health research as a key component of the reformed health sector, strengthen its capacity to save lives and improve health outcomes, and ensure retention of the gains and aims of the government’s current Health Research Strategy.

To facilitate NZHR’s request I have drafted two supplementary order papers for your consideration, and we hope that you’ll see fit to table and support them when the Bill is presented to the Committee of the whole House.

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I have copied this letter to Associate Health Ministers Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall and Hon Peeni Henare, as well as to Health Committee Chair Tangi Utikere, and we would be equally happy if any of these three government representatives were to take the lead in this exercise.

Kind regards



**Chris Higgins**

**Chief Executive | New Zealanders for Health Research**

**Research Associate | AUT Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences**

+64 27 292 8433 | [ceo@nz4healthresearch.org.nz](mailto:ceo@nz4healthresearch.org.nz)

cc Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health  
Tangi Utikere, Health Committee Chair  
Graham Malaghan, NZHR Chair

# House of Representatives

## Supplementary Order Paper

Monday, 30 May 2022

### Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

#### *Proposed amendments*

Hon Andrew Little, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

#### *Clause 4*

In *clause 4*, after **disability support services**, insert:

**evidence based** means has regard to all available evidence including results of best available, credible contemporary research including mātauranga Māori and research undertaken through a te ao Māori lens

#### *Clause 7*

In *clause 7* after *clause 7(1)(e)*, insert:

(f) all health sector strategies, policies, practices, services, programmes and interventions are evidence based

#### *Clause 13*

In *clause 13 (a)* between the words deliver and services insert:

evidence based

#### *Clause 14*

After *clause 14 (na)* insert

(nb) translate into policy and practice the results of health research, and

#### *Clause 18*

In *clause 18 (a)* after the words service delivery insert

are evidence based and

### *Clause 37*

In *clause 37 (3) (c)* between the words set out and opportunities insert  
evidence based

### *Clause 41*

After *clause 41 (1) (b)* insert

(c) have regard to all available evidence including results of best available, credible contemporary research including mātauranga Māori and research undertaken through a te ao Māori lens

## **Explanatory note**

The current lack of a clear evidence based approach to delivering health services is a significant contributor to both poor and inequitable health outcomes and the postcode lottery approach to health service provision. This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill to require all health sector services and programmes to be evidence based and have regard to the best available, credible contemporary research including mātauranga Māori and research undertaken through a te ao Māori lens.

# House of Representatives

# Supplementary Order Paper

## Monday, 30 May 2022

### Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

#### *Proposed amendments*

Hon Andrew Little, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

#### *Clause 4*

In *clause 4*, in the definition of **health strategy**, after paragraph (e) (page 7, after line 6), insert:

(g) Health Research and Innovation Strategy

#### *Clause 10*

After clause 10(1)(a)(v) (page 13, after line 2), insert:

(vii) Health Research and Innovation Strategy; and

#### *Clause 29*

After clause 29(1)(a)(v) (page 24, after line 13), insert:

(vii) Health Research and Innovation Strategy:

#### *New clause 40C*

After *clause 40A* (page 28, after line 24), insert:

#### **40C Health Research and Innovation Strategy**

(1) The Minister must prepare and determine a Health Research and Innovation Strategy.

(2) The purpose of the Health Research and Innovation Strategy is to provide a framework to guide the health system in undertaking and applying the

results of health research to improve health outcomes for all population groups.

(3) The Health Research and Innovation Strategy must—

(a) contain an assessment of the current state of New Zealand’s health and medical research and innovation system, including mātauranga Māori, and the adequacy of government, commercial and philanthropic investment; and

(b) contain an assessment of the medium and long-term trends that will affect the efficacy of the health research and innovation system, including in respect of health system performance; and

(c) set out how health research will address priorities for services and health system improvements relating to achieving best possible health for all population groups, including workforce development.

(4) **Subsection (3)** does not limit what may be included in the Health Research and Innovation Strategy.

### *Schedule 1*

In *Schedule 1, clause 2(1)*, after “the Women’s Health Strategy” (page 63, lines 32 and 33), insert “, and the Health Research and Innovation Strategy”.

## **Explanatory note**

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill to require a Health Research and Innovation Strategy be made for the health system. Health research and innovation is the single most important way by which health and healthcare is improved - by identifying and implementing the best means to prevent, diagnose and treat conditions. Inclusion of a Health Research and Innovation Strategy will further embed health research as a key component of the reformed health system, strengthen its capacity to save lives and improve health outcomes and ensure retention of the gains and aims of the government’s current Health Research Strategy.