

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



13 JUN 2022

Chris Higgins
Chief Executive
New Zealanders for Health Research
By email: ceo@nz4healthresearch.org.nz

Dear Chris

RE: Supplementary Order Papers for the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

Thank you for your letter seeking my support to amend the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill.

I note you raised these points in your submission to the Pae Ora Legislation Committee, which carefully considered it and made amendments reflecting many of the points you made, but decided against recommending a strategy and the suggested change to the health sector principles. You will be aware by now the Bill has passed all its stages in Parliament. Please be assured your proposal was carefully considered.

As you are aware, the list of strategies the Bill requires is not exhaustive. I am concerned that creating too long a list would result in the appearance of an exhaustive list, leading to over or under emphasis for different groups. Nothing in the Bill prevents the Minister, Ministry of Health or the Māori Health Authority from creating new strategies and action plans to address additional groups or health concerns as needed. I note that there is a Health Research Strategy in place now that sets a vision that, by 2027, New Zealand will have a world-leading health research and innovation system. The existence of this strategy will not change when the Bill commences.

The Pae Ora Bill sets the foundation for a health system that has equity at its core. I appreciate your support for the Bill, even though there is more you would like to see in it. I am confident that it will lead to improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Little'.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health