

## Quarterly meeting with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

Date due to MO: 22 March 2021

Action required by: 30 March 2021

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Commission Report  
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To: Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health

Copy to: [REDACTED] Ministry of Health

### Contact for telephone discussion:

Name	Position	Telephone
Hayden Wano	Chair, Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission	[REDACTED]
Karen Orsborn	Acting Chief Executive, Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission	[REDACTED]

Signed:

[REDACTED]

Karen Orsborn  
Acting Chief Executive  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

Hon Andrew Little  
Minister of Health

Minister's Office:

Comment:

# Quarterly meeting with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

## Purpose of briefing

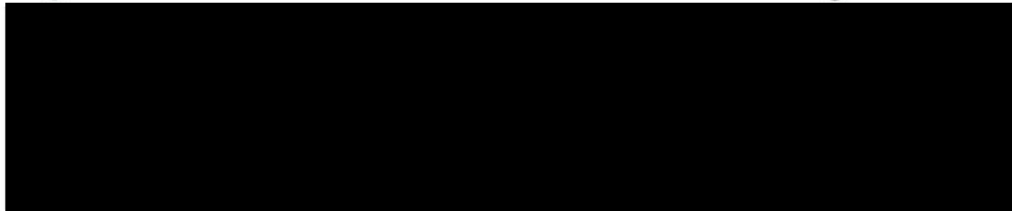
You are meeting with the Chair of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (the Commission), Hayden Wano, from 3 to 4pm on Tuesday, 30 March 2021. This briefing provides information on topics that may be discussed.

## Key points

The Commission has been operating since 9 February 2021. A significant amount of administrative work has taken place or is progressing to establish the Commission, and the Commission has made a start in its substantive role.

This briefing provides information on topics for possible discussion:

- Expectations for the first 18 months of the Commission and work in progress.
- Any matters arising from the reports of the Initial Commission, and final briefings on the work of the Initial Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission:



- The He Ara Oranga progress report: Mā Te Rongo Ake: Through Listening and Hearing.
- The Health and Disability System Review and alignment to He Ara Oranga and the work of the Commission.

## Recommendations

The Commission recommends that you:	
a)	<b>Note</b> the Commission will publish this briefing after the Board has considered and approved a Proactive Release Policy for the Commission, and subject to compliance with the new policy.

## Background

1. The Commission was established on 9 February 2021. We look forward to developing a strong and productive working relationship with you. Regular meetings have been arranged to discuss our work programme and develop shared understanding of challenges and opportunities in mental health and wellbeing.
2. Meetings have been scheduled approximately quarterly - 30 March 2021 (the subject of this briefing), 8 July 2021, and 21 October 2021.
3. A planned launch event for the Commission has been rescheduled to 14 April 2021. It was initially planned for 3 March but was postponed due to the change in COVID-19 alert levels. We shall provide an updated Aide Memoire closer to the event.

## Expectations for the first 18 months and work in progress

4. The Commission has developed strategic documents based on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020, the enduring letter of expectations to Crown Entities, and your expectations expressed in the letter appointing the Chair, and in your Letter of Expectations for 2021/22, addressed to the Chair.
5. Subject to Board consideration at a meeting on 31 March 2021, our Statement of Intent 2020-24 and Statement of Performance Expectations 2020 / 21 will be provided to you for feedback in April 2021. The Ministry of Health and the Social Wellbeing Agency have viewed early drafts, and the Ministry of Health will manage processes under the Crown Entities Act 2004 to seek your feedback.
6. A Statement of Performance Expectations for 2021 / 22 is also in development.
7. In the first 18 months, the Commission will have a focus on establishment. We will develop our strategic intentions and priorities to align with the Government's priorities and strategies discussed in the letters of expectations, including Whakamaua and Ola Manuia.
8. We have indicated in the Statement of Intent that the full development of a strategy, principles and values will take some time, and that we are using draft starting points to get work underway (e.g. draft principles). Our proposed strategic intentions and work programme are taking shape in:
  - a. **Establishment and leadership:** Setting a good foundation and being able to function as a fully independent Crown entity. Developing relationships across the wellbeing and mental health and addiction sectors and developing a clear approach to ensuring our organisation is grounded in



Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our commitment to honour the articles and principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in meaningful partnership with Māori as tangata whenua.

- b. **Monitoring and reporting:** Developing and applying frameworks for assessing wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for monitoring mental health and addiction services - continuing the work of the Health and Disability Commission that has transferred to the Commission. We expect to develop baseline reports in 2021 / 22, as well as some more responsive supplementary reports, and to submit through Ministry of Health and other consultation processes.
  - c. **Engagement and advocacy:** Developing an advocacy strategy and, as a pre-requisite, ensuring we are connected and engaged with Māori as tangata whenua, with Pacific peoples, and with all groups and populations who may be relatively more vulnerable or are disproportionately affected by poorer mental health and addiction outcomes, and with people who have experienced mental distress or addiction (or both) and their whānau, families, and support networks.
9. The Commission is recruiting staff and developing capability across their work programme. A Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is being established under the authority of the Board to ensure these areas are well managed. The Board is also establishing an Appointments and Remuneration Committee.
10. As previously noted in discussion, the Board would find it helpful to have another member with knowledge of te ao Māori, tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledges) and whānau-centred approaches to wellbeing. The Commission is working with the Ministry of Health to consider an additional appointment.

### The work of the Initial Commission

11. The Initial Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission handed over a body of work to the Commission. You have been briefed on this work [REDACTED] which includes:
- a. early reports on progress of the Government's response to He Ara Oranga<sup>1</sup>: Interim Report – Upholding the Wero Laid in He Ara Oranga (June 2020), and Mā Te Rongo Ake – Through Listening and Hearing (March 2021)

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1. <https://www.mhwc.govt.nz/the-initial-commission/progress-reporting/>

- b. a draft He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework for mental health and wellbeing, with a focus on measuring wellbeing
  - c. preparatory work on He Ara Āwhina, a service level monitoring framework for mental health and addiction services, with a focus on the quality of, and service processes for, mental health and addiction services
  - d. a draft work programme and operating model, alongside draft values and an interim approach for a Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework.
12. The Initial Commission was expected to identify data gaps related to the assessment of mental health and wellbeing and discuss mitigations with you. They provided analysis that we sent to your office [REDACTED]. The Board is due to consider the He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework, and the data gaps and implementation advice.
13. Your feedback on any aspects of the work of the Initial Commission and the outcomes framework and data gaps, would be welcome. We also welcome discussion of the advice of the Initial Commission raised in Mā Te Rongo Ake.

### Health and Disability Review

14. The Commission notes that the Government has accepted the high-level direction of the Health and Disability System Review (the Review). The Commission considers that the Review made recommendations for a future system that is sustainable, well-placed to respond to future needs, and shifts the balance from treatment of illness towards health and wellbeing.
15. The Review called for urgent improvements in making a positive difference in hauora Māori through progressive thinking that addresses systemic racism and discrimination. We expect to develop a close working relationship with the proposed Māori Health Authority to improve outcomes for Māori.
16. The Commission considers the advice from the Review aligns closely with the vision, shared values, and priorities of He Ara Oranga. A stronger, systemic focus on Māori health and an increased focus on equity will assist in responding to urgent needs. We would welcome discussion of the appropriate role of the Commission in change, and the opportunity to contribute to the outcomes of the Review.

**ENDS**

