

## Briefing

### Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

<b>Date due to MO:</b>	11/02/2025	<b>Action required by:</b>	18/02/2025
<b>Security level:</b>	UNCLASSIFIED	<b>Briefing number:</b>	BN2025-003
<b>To:</b>	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		
<b>Copy to:</b>	<div></div> <div></div>		

### Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Karen Orsborn	Chief Executive	<div></div>
Stuart Allan	Director Corporate Services	<div></div>

### Minister's Office to Complete

- |  |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's note | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |   |

Comment:

# Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a proposed agenda and key discussion points for a meeting with you, Hayden Wano, Board Chair and Karen Orsborn, Chief Executive of Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (the Commission) on Tuesday 18 February 2025.

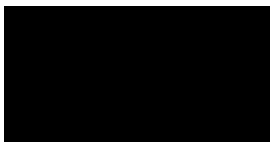
## Proposed agenda

2. We propose the following items for discussion.
  - i. Access & Choice monitoring report
  - ii. System performance monitoring
  - iii. Crisis responses
  - iv. Strategy 2025-2029 – strategic priorities
  - v. Board appointments.

## Recommendations

We recommend you:

- |    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| a) | <b>note</b> the contents of this briefing.   | Yes / No |
| b) | <b>note</b> the Commission intends to proactively release this briefing as part of our proactive release policy. | Yes / No |



Karen Orsborn  
**Chief Executive**  
Date: 11/02/2025

Hon Matt Doocey  
**Minister for Mental Health**  
Date:

# Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

### Access & Choice monitoring report

1. The 2025 Access and Choice monitoring report is the final in our series of monitoring reports on the Access and Choice programme rollout. We have delivered previous monitoring reports in 2021 and 2022.
2. To inform our monitoring report, we have commissioned a literature scan of primary mental health and addiction models and their impacts [refer BN2024-020]. We will send you an update on this literature scan in February prior to publication on our website in early March 2025.
3. The 2025 report responds to two key questions:
  1. What was delivered by the Access and Choice programme (and how does this compare to its intended roll-out)?
  2. How has the Access and Choice programme contributed to changing the mental health and addiction service landscape?
4. The report presents key findings related to the programme's reach, coverage, workforce, investment, and productivity and includes qualitative insights of the impact of the programme overall. It identifies changes we want to see and recommendations on for enhancement and improvement.
5. We are currently engaging with Health New Zealand and the Ministry of Health to discuss key findings and confirm accuracy. A final draft report will come to you in late March for your information prior to publication in early April.

### System performance monitoring

6. Our approach to monitoring and measurement is grounded in the He Ara Oranga Inquiry recommendations. It is informed by our findings to date, mental health and addiction strategies and plans, and local and international approaches to health system performance monitoring. We will use this project to advise on the upcoming Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy.
7. Our first system performance monitoring report, to be released in June 2025, will describe the system-level shifts we want to see movement towards and will use quantitative data to monitor progress towards these shifts. We are working with sector leaders including the Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand, and lived experience leaders to develop the system shifts and measures. We will refine our shifts, measures and reporting over time.



## Crisis responses

8. Crisis responses will be the topic of our 2025/26 monitoring report, with work underway now. We will independently monitor and provide insights on responses to people experiencing crisis and define what a good crisis response system could look like for Aotearoa. The monitoring will report on crisis responses for all people with lived experience and their whānau, with specific focus on Māori, and rangatahi and young people. The scope will cover mental health and addiction services that respond to people experiencing a crisis (inpatient services, crisis teams, crisis response call centres, etc) and emergency responses including emergency departments, Police, and Ambulance.
9. We anticipate releasing the monitoring report and associated outputs in early November 2025. We also plan to release a literature scan on evidence on what works for crisis models/approaches in New Zealand and internationally by June 2025.

## The Mental Health Services Learning Network (TheMHS) 2025 Forum

10. The New Zealand Forum is an opportunity for both organisations to bring their expertise and networks together for an event that would bring people with an interest in mental health, addiction and wellbeing together. Detailed planning is underway, with initial communications sent to our stakeholder list in December 2024. We are close to finalising a date in November 2025. The Forum will have a focus on crisis responses. We would like to invite you on behalf of the Commission and TheMHS to open the Forum and have an active role during the day.

## Strategy 2025-2029

11. To respond to our unique performance challenges and build on our foundation we are focusing our efforts over the next four years through making the following strategic shifts:
  - From a broad all of population focus on wellbeing to placing people with lived experience at the centre of our work to focus on tangible improvement for tāngata whaiora.
  - From a focus on monitoring and reporting to being future orientated, promoting alignment and leveraging knowledge and insights to influence positive change.
  - From building our foundations to being a bolder advocate, publicly holding to account and keeping the spotlight on mental health and wellbeing.
12. Our new Strategy 2025-2029 responds to the Future Excellence Horizon and charts the course for the Commission for the next four years. It takes into account our legislative mandate, external environment, operating context, Government expectations, and expectations of our stakeholders. The strategy was approved by the Board in January 2025.



## Strategic priorities

13. Our strategic priorities outline where we will focus our efforts over the next four years. These priorities will focus our efforts on the areas of greatest need and where we can have the biggest impact. Each strategic priority is underpinned by specific outcomes.
  1. Mental health and addiction services meet the needs of tāngata whaiora and their whānau.
  2. Advancing mental health and wellbeing outcomes for people with lived experience of mental distress and addiction.
  3. Improved performance of the mental health and addiction system.

## Board appointments

14. We have three members whose terms on the Board ended at the beginning of February 2025 and a further member with their term finishing in July 2025. We understand the Ministry is undertaking an open process of appointments. We are keen to understand your expectations for succession planning during the appointment process.

## For noting

### Update on submissions

15. We have seen evidence of the impact of our previous submissions and advocacy work across government, including: the select committee's report on the Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill has reflected some of our recommendations about retaining valuable parts of s7AA; the Ministry's Health National (Climate) Adaptation Plan has been released, which includes reference to the current and future mental health impacts of climate change and climate anxiety; the Covid-19 Royal Commission phase 1 report, which includes findings from a range of our reports, and a recommendation that draws on these; and our infographic on youth wellbeing outcomes has been used to inform a short resource on disabled youth, by Whaikaha.
16. Since our last update, we have made the following submissions on policy and legislation. [These submissions can be found on our website.](#)
  - **Mental Health Bill (Health Select Committee)** – we broadly support the introduction of assessment of people's decision-making capacity as part of new criteria for compulsory assessment and treatment, however the Bill could be further strengthened with regard to elimination of seclusion, court and tribunals decision making procedures, reduction and phasing out of community compulsory treatment/care, and reporting on implementation of the Act.
  - **The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill (Justice Select Committee)** – we do not support the passing of the Bill due to the negative impact on mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori due to the impact on tino

rangatiratanga (self-determination) and limitation on protections in place for the Crown to address inequities in mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori.

- **Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Legislation Amendment Bill** – we support efforts to improve outcomes for children and young people and endorse the Bill’s changes to strengthen independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system.
- **Draft Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2025/26 (Ministry of Health)** – we broadly support the direction of the strategy and recommend the strategy and plan could better prioritise prevention, remove barriers to early access, and grow the peer- and lived-experience, and cultural workforce at all levels.
- **Draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan (Ministry of Health)** – our submission provided recommendations to address gaps in the plan, including workforce, monitoring and evaluation and national research plans, critical analysis of the actions and impacts from the 2019-2024 plan, addressing inequities particularly for Māori, inclusion of factors that affect suicide risk underscored by a ‘suicide prevention in all policies’ approach, and strengthening the outcomes, measures and actions to better monitor impact.

### Upcoming publications

Publication	Date
Access to specialist services factsheet	February 2025
Access and Choice literature review	March 2025
Access and Choice programme monitoring	3 April 2025
He Ara Āwhina service monitoring framework – update to dashboard and supplementary infographic	By June 2025
Approach to system performance monitoring report – quantitative analysis	By June 2025
Wellbeing outcomes for people who interact with mental health and addiction services – infographic	By June 2025
2025-2029 Statement of Intent and 2025/26 Statement of Performance Expectations	30 June 2025

### BIMs and meeting with Ministers of Health and Youth

17. We have developed Briefings for the Incoming Ministers of Health and Youth [refer BN2025-001 and BN2025-002]. These have been sent to your office and the Ministry. As noted in our BIMs, we are keen to meet with you and the respective Ministers to discuss alignment of our priorities and work programmes and will engage with your offices to facilitate these meetings.

## Next steps

18. We will continue to keep you abreast of our work programme and strategic direction through briefings and regular meetings.

**ENDS**

