

Briefing

Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

Date due to MO:	29/07/2025	Action required by:	NA
Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Briefing number:	BN2025-014
To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		

Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	Telephone

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 Withdrawn | |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:

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To:	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 5 August 2025.

Proposed agenda

2. We propose the following items for discussion:
 - i. Crisis responses update
 - ii. Board appointments
 - iii. Monitoring recommendations

Recommendations

We recommend you:

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

Chief Executive
Date: 29/07/2025

Hon Matt Doocey
Minister for Mental Health
Date:

Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

For discussion

Crisis responses update

1. Our Crisis Responses project is on track and the monitoring report will be published in early November. It will cover how crisis responses are performing as well as defining what a good crisis response system could look like for Aotearoa. We will be presenting our report at the **He ara tūroa: Mental Health: An enduring pathway conference** on 5 November.
2. As part of this work, we commissioned a literature scan. The literature scan found many health systems around the world face many of the same issues we face in Aotearoa New Zealand. Evidence shows that when crisis responses are embedded within coherent, system-wide frameworks, they produce better outcomes. System-wide crisis response models offer continuity across crisis, community, and recovery as well as reduce coercion, improve outcomes, and embed culturally safe care close to where people live.
3. The publication date for the literature scan has been pushed back from July to August 2025. A webinar discussing the key findings will be held in August/September 2025.

Board appointments

4. We are working with the Ministry on the final stages of the appointment of the Deputy Chair and Board members. The Chair has met with the final shortlisted candidates.

Monitoring recommendations

5. We are monitoring the progress made against our five recommendations in **Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga | the Journey Has Begun**, our 2024 monitoring report covering the five-year period from July 2018 to June 2023. The recommendations had a timeframe ending 30 June 2025.
6. Formal letters have been sent to the Chief Executive of Health NZ and the Director General of the Ministry of Health and we expect to receive their self-assessment, justification and evidence by 30 July 2025. We will report on this in our 2024/25 Annual Report to illustrate the impact of our recommendations. A summary will be published on our website.
7. We also made three recommendations in our Access and Choice monitoring report (April 2025), and we are engaging regularly with Health NZ on progress toward these in line with their action plan.



For noting

Global Leadership Exchange (GLE) benchmarking

8. We are working with NHS Benchmarking, Health NZ and Te Pou for New Zealand to participate in the 2026 international benchmarking collaborative. This follows similar initiatives in 2019 and 2022. The Commission is funding New Zealand's contribution to this work, with other agencies contributing time and expertise. This work has strong support across agencies. We have met with Health NZ and Te Pou, as well as connected with the Whāraurau/GLE work on Children and Youth services.

Future of primary responses think tank

9. Planning is underway for a think tank on the future of the primary responses, including Access and Choice, for those with mild to moderate mental health and addiction needs. The think tank will bring together around ten senior leaders to have a visionary discussion about how we can build on existing services to create a system that meets the needs of future generations. It will be chaired by Deputy Chair Kevin Hague.

Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy

10. When the public consultation period begins on the Strategy, we will publish our advice to you [refer BN2025-012 and BN2025-013] on our website and encourage input from a range of stakeholders.
11. We will reiterate the importance of the Strategy, and our expectation that the Strategy embed the 'six shifts' from our recently published and well received 2025 system performance monitoring report. The report outlines a shared system view on what good looks like.
12. As discussed previously, we expect to provide further written advice to you and the Ministry after the consultation period, in response to the updated Strategy.

Mental Health Bill, including national conversation about safety and risk

13. In response to your letter of expectation, we considered the Commission's role to provide leadership in a national conversation about safety, risk and mental health in our July Board meeting. We will take a phased approach to this work and will engage with key stakeholders to determine where the Commission can best add value.

Review of Treaty Clauses in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020

14. Since our last meeting, we have met with Deputy Director General, Māori Health at Ministry of Health to seek information on progress and timeframes of the treaty clauses legislation review relating to our Act. While we understand the review is underway, we await further information about process, timeframes and the Commission's involvement.



Publication of NZ Health Survey data summary

15. As part of our role to bring insights on mental health and substance harm trends together we will be publishing a data summary using key information from the NZ Health Survey (NZHS) in early August. The data summary brings together the most recent mental health and problematic substance use data, providing an easy reference for wide use. The report uses data from the most recent NZHS (2023/24), and the most recent mental health and problematic substance use module (2022/23).
16. We intend to make this information available in this format as soon as possible after the data is available on an annual basis on our website as part of our ongoing programme of work.
17. A final draft is attached for your information. We will publish the summary on 8 August 2025 and will share a final embargoed copy with you 48 hours prior to publication. Other than sharing the summary via our mailing lists, we do not intend to undertake any proactive communications around this work.

Hauora Hinengaro 2025 conference update

18. Planning for Hauora hinengaro: **He ara tūroa: Mental Health: An enduring pathway conference 2025** is well underway and the programme has now been released. We are pleased to be able to host you to provide the opening remarks to the conference.

Next Steps

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

ENDS