

Briefing

Publication of *Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Timata Te Haerenga / the Journey Has Begun* recommendations

Date due to MO:	19/11/2025	Action required by:	3/12/2025
Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Briefing number:	BN2025-019
To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		
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Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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Minister's Office to Complete

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| <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 Withdrawn | |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:

Publication of *Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga / the Journey Has Begun Recommendations*

Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Date:	19/11/2025
To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		

Purpose of report

1. On 3 December 2025, Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (the Commission) will publish the attached *Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga / the Journey Has Begun recommendations* (the report). This briefing provides an overview of the key findings.

Background

2. Te Hiringa Mahara has legal functions and powers to enable us to fulfil our objective to contribute to better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all people in Aotearoa New Zealand, including the mandate to make recommendations.
3. We made our first five formal recommendations in *Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga / The Journey Has Begun 2024 monitoring report*, published in June 2024. Four of the recommendations were directed at Health NZ and one at government. We made a commitment to monitor the progress of our recommendations and report on these publicly.
4. The five recommendations were:
 - a) **Health NZ** develops a mental health and addiction workforce plan to address service capacity and workforce shortages by June 2025 (inclusive of clinical, peer and cultural workforces, Māori and lived experience leadership, and across primary, community, and specialist services).
 - b) **Health NZ** develops an action plan by June 2025 to meet the needs of Māori and whānau accessing specialist mental health and addiction services.
 - c) **Health NZ** provides guidance for the delivery of effective acute community options tailored to meet the needs of rangatahi and youth by June 2025.
 - d) **Health NZ** develops a mental health and addiction data plan by June 2025 that ensures information systems are integrated and enables collection of quality and timely data.
 - e) **Government** commits to funding a planned programme of work to collect mental health and addiction prevalence data by June 2025, to enable improved services and ensure value for money.

5. This short report outlines the progress that has been made towards achievement of these five recommendations. Responsible agencies were asked to self-assess progress and provide evidence for their assessment. In this, we asked for assessment of both how much had been done to achieve the recommendation and how well it had been done.

Findings

6. The report illustrates that substantial progress has been made overall.
7. Three of the five recommendations have been fully implemented in the given timeframe. Having improved prevalence information, better data systems, and a plan to address workforce shortages will provide a solid foundation for designing and delivering changes to services that are most effective in addressing gaps in access to MHA services.
8. Two of the five recommendations were not achieved by Health NZ. There are still some areas that need further work, particularly on ensuring that services meet the needs of priority population groups which have not been well served by mainstream MHA services, Māori and rangatahi and young people. While there has been some promising work by Te Aka Whai Ora prior to their disestablishment, this needs to be turned into an action plan and delivered by Health NZ to see changes that will make a difference for Māori.
9. During our consultation we heard about their plans to implement the recommendations from Hāpaitia (Te Aka Whai Ora's review of specialist mental health services' provision of care for Māori) and the work of their Strategic Design Network – Infant Child and Youth to identify and implement service improvements and enhancements across relevant Youth Crisis Respite services.

Consultation

10. The report was provided to the Ministry of Health and Health NZ to clarify any gaps and provide additional information, further feedback or comment.

Communications

11. A high-level communications plan is attached for your information. We will publish the report on our website and share via LinkedIn and our mailing list. Key report findings will be shared via social media. Additionally, we will focus on sharing this report with lived experience networks and forums, and wider sector networks.
12. Karen Orsborn, Chief Executive and Sonya Russell, Director Mental Health and Addiction Sector Leadership will be the spokespeople for any media interest. We will keep your office informed of media activity.



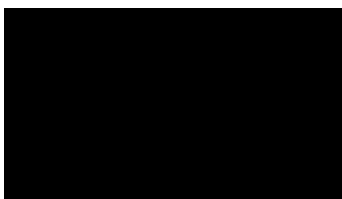
Next Steps

13. The report and high-level communications plan are attached for your information. The final report will be shared with your office prior to publication.
14. Subject to minor editorial and design changes, the *Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Timata Te Haerenga | the Journey Has Begun recommendations* will be published on our website to publicly report progress towards recommendations included in the *Kua Timata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun 2024 monitoring report*.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

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| a) | Note the <i>Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Timata Te Haerenga the Journey Has Begun recommendations</i> will be published on 3 December 2025. | Yes No |
| b) | Note progress toward the five recommendations. | Yes No |
| c) | Note we intend to release this briefing under our proactive release policy. | Yes No |



Chief Executive

Date: 19/11/2025

Hon Matt Doocey

Minister for Mental Health

Date:

Attachments

- | | |
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| Appendix A | Assessment of progress – implementation of Kua Timata Te Haerenga the Journey Has Begun recommendations |
| Appendix B | Comms and engagement plan – Minister’s office |

ENDS