

Briefing

Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission advice on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and feedback on the Implementation Plan

Date due to MO:	9/07/2026	Action required by:	17/07/2026
Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Briefing number:	BN2026-014
To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health		
Copy to:	Marty De Boer, Senior Advisor, System and Entity Monitoring, Performance and Governance Group, Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora		

Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Karen Orsborn	Chief Executive	
Ella Cullen	Director – Wellbeing System Leadership & Insights	

Minister's Office to Complete

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Approved | ☐ Decline | ☐ Noted |
| ☐ Needs change | ☐ Seen | ☐ Overtaken by event |
| ☐ See Minister's note | ☐ Withdrawn | |

Comment:

Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission advice on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and feedback on the Implementation Plan

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To:	Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health
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Purpose

1. This briefing provides our advice on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy as part our mandated role. We also provide feedback on the Implementation Plan, for your consideration.

Background

2. In May 2025, in line with our mandated role under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, and following discussion with the Ministry of Health, we agreed to work with the Ministry during drafting of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and to provide you with formal written advice directly.
3. We provided you with early advice in May and June 2025 (briefings BN2025-0012 and -0013 refer). In February 2026, we provided further advice to the Ministry before the draft Strategy went for public consultation and provided you with a copy (BN2026-003 refers). As previously agreed, we noted that we would provide more detailed advice on the next iteration of the draft Strategy, after the public consultation has been completed.
4. We have now received the latest draft Strategy, and for the first time, the draft Implementation Plan, along with the consultation summary report. Our advice on the Strategy is attached, in line with our role under the Act. We have also provided feedback on the Implementation Plan to the Ministry, which is also attached for your information.

Summary of our previous advice

May 2025: Proactive advice drawing on our first system performance report, and the six key system shifts.

We sought to see a Strategy that:

- a) inspires hope and change with leadership at every level
- b) outlines a future with concrete, measurable objectives
- c) provides a shared view of what a good mental health and addiction system looks like to drive progress
- d) features cross-government and preventative actions to improve mental health and wellbeing
- e) and takes a coordinated approach to bring together government strategies and plans that address mental health.

June 2025: assessed the first draft Strategy against our May advice	Highlighted the need for: a) increased investment in Kaupapa Māori services b) effort to address the disproportionate need faced by Māori. Provided specific feedback on the Commission's role.
February 2026: advice on updated Strategy before public consultation	We noted good alignment with the six system shifts, but gaps remained in: a) action on determinants to tackle increasing rates of distress; b) action to address needs of Māori; c) detail on resource and investment on several of the actions; d) and addressing the system information gaps on experience and outcomes data. Highlighted importance of hearing and reflecting the views of people with lived experience.

Final advice on the Strategy

5. Our advice on the latest draft Strategy is consistent with our past advice, our recent system performance monitoring and Roadmap 2026. Our advice is well supported by the public consultation undertaken by the Ministry. Advice is focused on recognising the improvements that have been made across iterations of the Strategy.
6. We have also provided feedback on the Implementation Plan. Feedback is focused on further strengthening efforts to improve equity of outcomes, and ensuring appropriate action and progress measurement is in place to achieve the desired strategic outcomes.

Next Steps

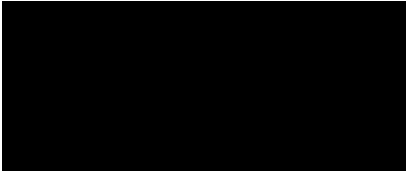
7. This is our final written advice on the development of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We will publish this final advice, as we have for our previous advice, on our website at a later date.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

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| a) | give regard to our latest advice on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as outlined in the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 | Noted |
| b) | note that we have provided feedback on the draft Implementation Plan to the Ministry | Noted |
| c) | note that we intend to publish this advice on our website for transparency at a later date. | Noted |





Karen Orsborn
Chief Executive
Date: 9/07/2026

Hon Matt Doocey
Minister for Mental Health
Date:

Enclosed:

Appendix 1

Final Advice on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Appendix 2

Feedback on the Implementation Plan

ENDS