

Briefing



Meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara Mental Health, and Wellbeing Commission

Date due to MO:	28/10/2022	Action required by:	7/11/2022
Security level:	UNCLASSIFIED	Briefing number:	BN2022-012
To:	Minister of Health, Hon Andrew Little		
Copy to:	[REDACTED]		

Contact for Telephone Discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Karen Orsborn	Chief Executive	[REDACTED]
Wayne Verhoeven	Director, Corporate Services	[REDACTED]

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 Withdrawn | |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

Security level: UNCLASSIFIED **Date:** 7/11/2022

To: Minister of Health, Hon Andrew Little

Purpose of report

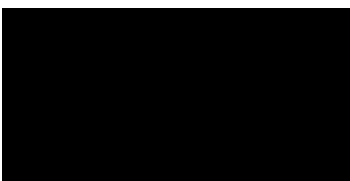
1. This briefing supports your meeting with Te Hiringa Mahara, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission on 7 November 2022, at 3:30pm – 4:00pm. Attendees will be Hayden Wano, Board Chair and Karen Orsborn, Chief Executive.

Executive Summary

2. We propose the following agenda:
 - a. Access and Choice Report 2022
 - b. Youth Wellbeing Insights
 - c. Covid-19 Impacts Insights programme – Impact on older people
 - d. Follow up discussion on sustainable funding.

Recommendations

3. We recommend you:
 - a) **note** Te Hiringa Mahara intends to proactively release this briefing as part of our proactive release policy **Yes / No**



Karen Orsborn
Chief Executive
Date: 28/10/2022

Hon Minister Andrew Little
Minister for Health
Date: 7/11/2022

Background

4. We met with you on the 21 September 2022 [BN2022-010 refers]. At that meeting we discussed the up-and-coming releases scheduled for end of October, He Ara Āwhina – Pathways to support, accessibility to data for the Access and Choice Report and sustainable funding.

Upcoming Publications

Access and Choice Programme Report 2022

5. Our second monitoring report on the Access and Choice programme is planned for publication by the end of November.
6. We have received the majority of the data we requested from Manatū Hauora and have made a further request for the most substantial missing data, relating to workforce development initiatives, with Te Whatu Ora. We will progress with the information we have received for the Access and Choice report and will note the gaps in the data that we are unable to report on.
7. Whilst the report is still in development, the preliminary findings include:
 - a. There has been strong progress with programme rollout over the 2021/22 year for most services
 - b. There was particularly strong progress with Kaupapa Māori services rollout, including good progress with workforce recruitment
 - c. The funding rollout is behind what is expected for Pacific services and there are substantial workforce vacancies in these services. We would like to see more focused attention in supporting the development of the Pacific services
 - d. Workforce is also a significant problem for IMPHA and Youth services – a sector wide approach to workforce is required for Mental Health and Addiction
 - e. Other areas of focus are on the number of unique people seen across the programme compared to what is expected at this time in the programme rollout.

COVID-19 impact insights programme

8. On 4 October 2022, Te Hiringa Mahara published the first of its Covid-19 Impacts Insights reports. You have been briefed on this programme of work and have received the first report – Media reporting of COVID-19 and mental health and wellbeing [BN2022-016 refers].
9. Our second paper in the COVID-19 insights programme, is currently in draft and uses our He Ara Oranga Wellbeing Outcomes Framework to lay out the wellbeing impacts on older people in Aotearoa. It highlights that older people tend to report greater wellbeing across a range of measures than other age groups, but that the pandemic has had important negative impacts. For some older people, often those already most vulnerable, the negative impacts were much worse than the average, and are continuing to impact on their wellbeing.
10. Findings call out for greater involvement of older people in decision-making that affects them, a greater understanding of and research into the diverse needs and experiences of older communities, and a greater recognition and leverage of the

agencies and groups involved in improving the lives and wellbeing of older people in Aotearoa.

11. As we progress this piece of work, we will provide you with further advice closer to the release date which is expected in November 2022.

Youth Wellbeing Insights Paper

12. We expect to publish our insight report on youth wellbeing in January 2023. Our approach taken is to identify key issues affecting youth wellbeing and generate relevant insights that can shape policy and practice and centre the voices of young people at every stage of the project.
13. We commissioned researchers from Koi Tū – The Centre for Informed Futures to prepare a literature review summarising the available evidence on social determinants of youth wellbeing in Aotearoa. Alongside this kaupapa, we have been engaging community groups and young people to seek their feedback on the themes, test our thinking and hear their perspectives on solutions and possible actions to address the issues identified. We have also met with community, NGO and government stakeholders.
14. The literature review and our engagement affirmed the salience and interconnectedness of the four key themes:
 - a. Racism and discrimination, both systemic and interpersonal, were identified as significantly impacting youth wellbeing
 - b. Young people’s apprehension about their futures, significantly affected by their awareness of the scale of the climate crisis, experiences and anticipation of economic insecurity, and the many disruptions caused by Covid-19, and pressure to make the ‘right’ choices about their future
 - c. The ‘accelerator affect’ of social media on pre-existing social dynamics; bullying, racism, comparison with others, body image and feeling disconnected. Low digital literacy and dismissive attitudes about social media amongst many adults undermines our ability as a community to enable safe and positive interactions online
 - d. Intergenerational and whānau connections: young people focused on cultural identity, connection, language, the impacts of colonisation, and whānau; and emphasised the importance of meaningful opportunities for young people to lead, participate and have a say in decisions that affect them, not being ‘consulted’ without any follow-through or visible change.
15. Our peer review process for this project will include the views of young people who informed the report – as experts on their own experience. The final output will combine insights from the review and our engagement into a short insights report.
16. We continue to engage with the Cross-Party Mental Health and Addictions Wellbeing Group who have an interest in improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes for young people.

Accountability and funding

17. The Annual report for 2021 / 22 is nearly complete with the final audit report expected from the auditors by 31 October 2022. A short memo to your office will follow, outlining the timeframe for tabling and the process therein.
18. We have been invited to meet with the Health Select Committee on the 7 December.
19. At our last meeting you suggested we send you a letter about our funding situation. We would welcome a discussion on next steps.

Engagement and other activity

Acute options project

20. While Manatū Hauora and Te Whatu Ora are working to expand access to and choice of primary mental health and addiction services, there has been little investment in services available for people experiencing significant distress. In order to understand the current state, including service gaps, Te Hīringa Mahara is developing an insights paper that will describe what a comprehensive acute system should look like, and maps the current provision of services and supports that are available for people experiencing acute mental distress.
21. The main purpose of the project is to understand:
 - a. What service and support options are available in Aotearoa for people who are experiencing acute mental distress?
 - b. Where are these services and supports located?
 - c. What services and/or supports do tāngata whaiora want when they are experiencing acute or significant mental distress?
 - d. What evidence is available regarding the effectiveness of different services?
 - e. What components of service are missing?
22. The findings will be presented in two key outputs:
 - f. An online tool that maps the location of the services throughout Aotearoa
 - g. An insights paper into what services are available for people who are experiencing significant acute mental distress. This paper will include information on the Vote Health investment in acute care services across Aotearoa (by district) and evidence of effectiveness of services where it is available.

Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill

23. The Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill is currently before the Social Services and Community Committee, and submissions are open until 7 November. Due to the nature and content of the Bill, we have prepared a written submission. We sought the views of our disabled community stakeholders in preparing the draft submission, and their feedback shaped its development. In summary, we consider that the Bill should be substantially strengthened before it is passed:

- a. To ensure that the Committee it establishes can improve wellbeing for disabled people and whānau, it should understand, reflect, and represent the diversity of those communities
 - b. The Bill should better uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi if it is to have meaningful impacts for Māori. It should also uphold related international obligations
 - c. Most importantly, the Committee needs to be adequately resourced, with appropriate levers at its disposal, to bring about change.
24. Our submission will be available to the public, via the parliament website. We will add it to the Submissions page on our own website also, but do not expect to make an oral submission or any announcements on it.

Next Steps

25. We will brief you on the work outlined in this briefing.

ENDS