

Media Release

02 September 2016

General Practice NZ (GPNZ) and the Primary Health Alliance join forces

GPNZ and the Primary Health Alliance have announced their shared commitment to the provision of high quality, sustainable health and social care services and their intention to work towards a united network organisation in the next 12 months by signing a Heads of Agreement at the Annual General Meeting of the Primary Health Alliance in Wellington today.

Both organisations will work with stakeholder's to leverage their respective strengths across the primary care sector, creating a unified voice for primary care. The need to represent and advocate with one voice has never been greater and has recently been demonstrated by GPNZ and Primary Health Alliance's joint position to the Minister of Health on capitation formulae following the recommendations of the Primary Care Working Group. This is the first step in creating strength through a collective voice, to support the increasing expectations on those who work in the sector and how they deliver services to their local communities.

Primary Health Alliance Chair, John Ayling, says the two organisations will now enter a period of due diligence and the first action GPNZ and the Primary Health Alliance will undertake under the new agreement is to publish a joint manifesto in the lead up to the 2017 General Election. "This will focus on primary care's role in delivering the new Health Strategy through person-centred integrated services across the health and social care system," he says.

GPNZ Chair, Dr Jeff Lowe, says both organisations represent networks of primary care providers, and share common objectives to achieve equity of access and improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders, as well as ensuring the sustainability of health care services.

"A commitment to clinical leadership, inter-professional respect and partnership and delivery of care through multi-disciplinary teams are fundamental pillars of both organisations. Strategic priorities include supporting innovation and knowledge sharing, championing new models of care and the health care home, and improving consumer engagement in primary care," he says.

John Ayling says that achieving a united, politically agnostic, primary care voice is both feasible and desirable, given the alignment of our respective priorities.

Dr Jeff Lowe says both organisations have every confidence that a primary care collective leading and implementing innovation and system change will create a compelling value proposition for their sector stakeholders and members.

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More information on Primary Health Alliance at
www.primaryhealthalliance.org.nz