

Message from the Chair - Dr Jeff Lowe

December 2018



“With the festive season in full swing and many of us looking forward to a well-earned break, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on 2018 and connect with our members. It’s been another very busy year for both General Practice and our partner organisations. We welcome and support the establishment of the Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand and its commitment to the WHO Astana Declaration which provides an opportunity for unity in the development of the broad general practice space.”

GPNZ Newsletter

AGM update

New Executive and Members:

During the Annual General Meeting held in November, we welcomed several new members to GPNZ: ProCare, Alliance Health Plus and Health Hawke’s Bay. Our membership now represents organised General Practice service provision to over 3 million New Zealanders.

At the AGM the following members were appointed to GPNZ Executive for the next 12 months:

Dr Jeff Lowe	Prof Les Toop
Dr Larry Jordan	Vince Barry
Dr Heidi MacRae	Dr Harley Aish
Chiquita Hansen	David Harrison
Henrietta Taia	Dr Ken Young

Since the AGM, the executive has also welcomed Dr Mark Peterson as a co-opted member.

The Annual Report will be available shortly on the GPNZ website.

Earlier this year Fiona Thomson stepped away from the CEO role and moved into the role of Principal Advisor. This allows us to retain Fiona’s skills and knowledge whilst enabling her to pursue other work opportunities. A General Manager position has been introduced to which Liz Stockley has been seconded on a part time basis. Liz’s substantive role is with Tū Ora Compass Health. I’d also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Kate Baddock to the executive over many years.



GPNZ was represented at the recent launch of the CSC and free under 14 initiatives at Island Bay Medical Centre with Prime Minister Adhern, Dr David Clark and Hon. Jenny Marcroft NZ First.

Our focus at GPNZ remains firmly on organised general practice and advocating for our members who deliver Primary Care services to over 3 million New Zealanders. The feedback from members is clear - we need to continue to promote the value of sustainable and equitable general practice as we implement changing funding models within a politically charged environment."

World Health Organisation Astana Declaration October 2018

"We are convinced that strengthening primary health care (PHC) is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social wellbeing, and that PHC is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals." Read more about the Astana Declaration [here](#)



Dr Jeff Lowe, Dr David Clark, Dame Annette King and John Ayling.

Highlights 2018

GPNZ undertook a significant piece of work this year on behalf of Networks and PHOs. This work saw collation and modelling of data to inform the PSAAP negotiation of the new government initiatives around improving access to care for CSC holders and the extension of Zero Fees to under 14 years.

GPNZ commissioned DataCraft Analytics to undertake modelling with data access agreements agreed and signed by each PHO. As a result, DataCraft collated enrolled patient demographic, service utilisation and practice fee information identifiable to practice level. This was the first time we had created a national general practice dataset of type and it illustrated just how valuable a sound evidence base is to primary care when entering into negotiations around implementation of a policy initiative of this magnitude.

The GPNZ programme of work for 2018 has also included:

- Facilitating the EOI around development of a National Primary Care Data Service
- The establishment of the Federation of Primary Healthcare Aotearoa New Zealand
- Negotiation of V6.1 of the PHO Services Agreement on behalf of member networks
- Developing relationships with key stakeholder organisations, colleagues, Ministries and agencies.

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We recently commissioned a piece of modelling work to understand what infrastructure, workforce and resource requirements will be required to support sustainable General Practice in future. Initial findings from this work, from respected Primary Care Health Economist Dr Tom Love, will be released early 2019.

The GPNZ executive has also agreed to fund research work to understand how our member consumer population feel about General Practice and what they want in a service. Based on a series of focus groups, this work will serve to re-enforce findings from the General Practice future modelling work coupled with existing consumer information from the Patient Experience and NZ Health surveys.

Together, these pieces of work will help to build a business case for General Practice investment at decision making levels, provide the basis for future Primary Care advocacy work and feed into the New Zealand Health review 2019.

We welcome member feedback on all General Practice related issues.

Have a safe a relaxing Christmas break.

Ngā Mihi



Jeff Lowe