



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PROFILE

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Role of the Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is the Government's principal advisor on health and disability in New Zealand. In performing its role, the Ministry carries out activities which include:

- providing policy advice about outcomes and strategies for advancing the health status of New Zealanders, and reducing disparities in health status for Māori and other groups
- developing and maintaining a framework of regulatory health interventions
- establishing and promoting links with other sectors which influence health status and independence
- monitoring performance of the Health Funding Authority and other agencies against the objectives agreed with the Government
- providing informed, independent advice to Ministers about sector performance
- establishing links with health agencies in other countries, for awareness of development of relevance to New Zealand and for benchmarking the performance of New Zealand's health and disability sector
- providing advice on the protection and improvement of New Zealand's biosecurity, and the health impact of measures to control biosecurity.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

The vision of the Ministry of Health is to:

*Facilitate the development of the health and disability sector to maximise the potential of people with disabilities and the health of New Zealand people - **'Healthy New Zealanders'***

Mission

The mission of the Ministry of Health is to be:

*An effective facilitator of desired change, actively linked with and understanding the total health and disability system - **'Leading Health'***

This mission statement encapsulates the key expectations for what we are about, being a Ministry of Health which is able to make the well informed judgements on the directions and options for the health and disability sector and the opportunities to promote the health of New Zealanders, through:

- understanding the determinants of health and the interaction between health policy and social policy
- understanding how the structures in the health and disability sector interact positively or negatively in the achievement of health and disability goals
- the ability to balance clinical, managerial and policy perspectives
- the ability to take a systems overview which takes account of both the public and private components of the health and disability sector and of mechanisms outside of health and disability services to improve the health and independence of New Zealanders.

Values

The following values are the foundation for how the Ministry as a total organisation should go about its work:

- ***highly professional***
- ***internally consistent***
- ***totally coherent.***

Organisational Structure

The Ministry presently has the following five Branches:

- Policy
- Maori Health
- Performance Management
- Safety & Regulation
- Corporate.

Policy Branch provides policy advice on the overall direction and priorities for health and disability. This includes advice on funding levels, the regulatory framework for health and disability services, and inter-sectoral initiatives for improved health and independence.

Safety and Regulation Branch is responsible for the administration of regulation and the enforcement of health and safety legislation (including mental health) and biosecurity. The aim is to move to a modern regulatory framework based on risk analysis - the Safety & Regulation Branch has as its key task the identification and management of these risks. The *Public Health Group* with its statutory responsibilities forms a discrete part of the Safety and Regulation Branch.

Māori Health Branch provides policy advice on the overall strategy for achieving improved Māori health.

Performance Management Branch manages the Government's purchase and ownership interests in specific Crown entities, including the Health Funding Authority. This involves working in partnership with the health and disability sector to facilitate the achievement of the Government's health and disability goals and objectives. The Branch is responsible for developing and implementing annual accountability documents, monitoring and advising on performance and identification and management of issues and risks of non-performance in respect of these Crown entities. This work is complemented by the *National Health Committee Secretariat* which is located in this Branch.

Corporate Branch provides corporate and support services to the Minister of Health (and Associate Ministers) and to the Ministry. The Branch includes the Ministry's business units - the New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS), the National Radiation Laboratory (NRL), and MedSafe:

- the **National Radiation Laboratory (NRL)** protects radiation users and the public through implementing the requirements of the radiation protection legislation
- the **New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)** manages national health information systems and statistical collections
- **MedSafe** is responsible for the approval/licensing of drugs and medical devices in New Zealand.

Output Classes Vote Health

Output classes are the level at which Parliament authorises output purchase from Government departments through the appropriation process.

Output Class 1: Health and Disability Policy

This output class purchases advice and policy analysis provided to the Minister of Health on the strategic direction of the health and disability sector, including advice on how to improve access and enhance the delivery of services to consumers, advice on health gain for Maori, mental health and child health, and the Government's role in financing regulating and delivering services.

Output Class 2: Performance Management

This output class purchases the negotiation, monitoring and management of the Crown's funding of the Health Funding Authority and the negotiation and monitoring of contracts with specific advisory and sector support service providers. The Ministry of Health is required to negotiate an agreement, on behalf of the Minister of Health, with the Health Funding Authority which then funds an agreed range of health and disability support services for New Zealand people by means of contracts with service providers.

This output class also provides administrative and advisory services to the National Advisory Committee on health and disability.

Output Class 3: Ministerial Support Services

This output class involves the purchase of support services including responses to official information requests, responses to ministerial correspondence and answers to parliamentary questions put to the Minister and Associate Ministers of Health.

Output Class 4: Health Regulation and Protection

This output class purchases the administration and enforcement of legislation - particularly relating to the protection of the public from malpractice, unsafe products, procedures or services - in order to provide assurance of public safety. This includes:

- standards, guidelines and codes of practice in the fields of radiation protection, medicines, food, environmental health, and communicable disease (including work to harmonise therapeutics and food standards with those of Australia)
- licensing to ensure the safe use of irradiating equipment, hospitals and other facilities, and medicines
- national co-ordination for public health regulatory services such as the management of communicable diseases.

Output Class 5: Occupational Registration

This output class involves the servicing and administration of health occupational registering bodies.

Note: This output class will cease during 1999/2000 as Parliament has passed the Occupational Registration Amendment Bill which withdraws the Ministry from involvement in servicing the administration of occupational registration boards.

Output Class 6: Health Information Services

This output class includes:

- collection, processing, maintenance, analysis and dissemination of health data, health statistics and health information
- continuing maintenance and development of the national health and disability information systems
- provision of appropriate national databases, systems and information products
- development and provision of health and disability information standards and quality audit programmes for data
- co-ordination of ongoing national health and disability information collections, and proposals for their development.

Profile of the General Management Team

Five Deputy Directors-General report to the Director-General of Health (who is also the Chief Executive Officer). The Director-General and the five Deputy Director-Generals constitute the General Management Team.

Dr Karen Poutasi - Director-General of Health

Dr Karen Poutasi is a medical graduate of Otago University. Her area of specialisation is public health medicine and she also holds both Otago and Harvard management qualifications. She has held Harkness and King's Fund fellowships, which have facilitated international networks in health and disability.

Karen has worked for nearly 20 years in health care management, holding positions in Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington. She was the foundation General Manager of the Wellington Area Health Board and oversaw the transition into three Crown Health Enterprises in 1993.

In taking up her present position as Director-General of Health and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health in July 1995, Karen has returned to an organisation in which she previously held Chief Advisor positions.

Ron Paterson - Deputy Director-General, Safety and Regulation

Ron Paterson came to the Ministry from the University of Auckland, where he was Senior Lecturer in Health Care Law. He has law degrees from the Universities of Auckland and Oxford, and has held academic posts at the Universities of Ottawa and British Columbia. He has recently returned from a Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy in Washington DC.

Ron was contracts manager for medical/surgical services at North Health, and previously worked in the Ministry as Manager of the Mental Health section.

Philip Davies - Deputy Director-General, Policy

Philip Davies has wide-ranging experience of health sector planning and management, including the development and implementation of health sector reforms, in both the UK and New Zealand.

Philip joined the Ministry of Health in November 1997. In his previous capacity as a partner in a major international management consultancy firm he provided advice and assistance to a wide variety of Government agencies, health and disability service providers and private/voluntary sector organisations.

Philip holds degrees in mathematics and management science and has worked extensively in areas such as policy analysis, strategic planning, performance improvement and organisational development.

Ria Earp - Deputy Director-General, Maori Health

Ria Earp started in the Ministry of Health in October 1996. She has responsibility for providing Māori health policy advice to Government, through Te Kete Hauora, the policy section, of the Māori Health Branch.

In 1986, Ria joined the Department of Māori Affairs after a varied work experience as a teacher, a social worker and a university lecturer. Since joining the public service, Ria has worked in a variety of management positions in the areas of social policy, corporate services and programme delivery. She has also worked across a range of Government departments including Internal Affairs, Women's Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri and Youth Affairs.

During 1990-91, Ria completed an MBA at Victoria University Wellington, from where she had previously obtained an MA (Applied) Social Work and BA (Anthropology). Ria is of Te Arawa, Ngāti Pīkiao and Ngāti Whakaue descent.

Peter Hughes - Deputy Director-General, Performance Management

As Deputy Director-General, Performance Management, Peter has responsibility for leading the Performance Management Branch in managing the Government's interests in the Health Funding Authority and other health agencies.

Peter has worked in the social policy area since 1982 in a variety of central Government positions spanning both operational and policy roles. Peter was also part of the Prime Minister's Change Team on Targeting of Social Assistance. He was awarded a Harkness fellowship to study public sector management at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and completed a Master's degree in Public Administration in 1993.

Dr David Lambie - Deputy Director-General, Corporate

Prior to taking up this position David was Assistant General-Manager, Strategic in the Ministry's Policy Branch.

From 1985 David spent five years with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), where his responsibilities included the department's corporate planning processes and information systems. After a period in the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology he joined the Department of Health in 1990 as Manager, Area Health Board Performance.

Prior to joining the public service, David carried out research in the Department of Neurology of Glasgow University and in the Wellington Clinical School of Medicine. He holds a PhD in biochemistry as well as academic qualifications in economics and information science.

The Ministry's Chief Advisors

The Ministry's Chief Advisors are leaders in their fields, and represent the Ministry of Health in the health and disability sector. They bring to their role a vast range of expertise and experience in health management and service delivery.

In addition to the people described below, the vacant position of Chief Advisor, Pacific Health is currently being filled.

Dr Bob Boyd - Chief Advisor, Safety and Regulation

Holding vocational medical registration in both general practice and public health medicine, Bob Boyd has held a variety of senior policy and regulatory roles within the Ministry of Health.

As Chief Advisor, Regulation and Safety, his responsibilities cover health and disability services which are licensed or registered under statute. This means working with Ministry staff involved in licensing hospitals and residential facilities, radiation protection, and controlling the safety of medicines and medical devices.

Dr Colin Feek - Chief Advisor, Medical

Colin Feek completed his medical training at Westminster Hospital in London in 1973, and subsequently obtained a PhD in endocrinology with the University of Edinburgh. He came to New Zealand in 1997 to take up a consultant position as a specialist endocrinologist and physician and Wellington Hospital.

He completed further study at Victoria University with a Master's degree in Public Policy before his appointment as Chief Advisor, Medical to the Ministry of Health in 1994.

Gillian Grew - Chief Advisor, Services

For the last eight years Gillian Grew has undertaken senior policy, managerial and advisory roles within the Ministry. She was responsible for establishing the National Cervical Screening Programme, and for four years undertook the Chief Advisor, Nursing role.

Her varied nursing experience included acute specialised surgical nursing, district nursing, acute and chronic mental health nursing and nurse education.

Frances Hughes - Chief Advisor, Nursing

Frances has had 20 years of experience in the New Zealand health service working as a health clinician and a nurse educator, and has done extensive research into workforce development.

She is a fellow of both the college of Nurses of New Zealand and the Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses.

Dr Lynne Lane - Director of Public Health

Lynne Lane is a public health medicine specialist who has worked with organisations including the Public Health Commission and the Central Regional Health Authority. She has been an executive committee member of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine for the past four years, and Chair of the Public Health Medicine training programme since 1997.

The Director of Public Health is responsible for advising the Director-General and Minister of Health on public health matters including regulatory issues.

Nick Manson - Chief Advisor, Health Information

Nick Manson is a strategic planner and information specialist with a broad background in the health sector in a senior management and consultative capacity. He has degrees in biochemistry, public health nutrition and computer science.

His previous positions have included, in the UK, as an information consultant to the Management Executive of the NHS, and in Australia, as Director of Strategic Planning and Information Services at the New Children's Hospital, Sydney.

Lester Mundell - Chief Advisor, Disability Support Services

Lester Mundell joined the Ministry as Manager, Disability Support Services in April 1997, with a background spanning 15 years in social work, community services funding, and social services policy.

Since 1992 Lester has managed social services policy issues, including disability support services provided by the Department of Social Welfare.

Frances Ross - Chief Advisor, Media

Frances Ross took up the position of Chief Advisor, Media in the Ministry in February 1998.

A daily journalist for 15 years, she specialised in coverage of health issues for the last decade and was widely recognised as a leader in her field.

Dr Tony Ruakere - Chief Advisor, Maori Health

Tony's position involves providing clinical advice, oversight and co-ordination on issues which impact on Maori health status.

Tony was previously practising as a GP with the Te Atiawa Medical Centre - a New Plymouth iwi-based service which he helped establish four years ago. He has 30 years of experience as a GP and has been involved in a large range of health and community initiatives for Maori.

Dr Pat Tuohy - Chief Advisor, Child Health

Pat Tuohy took up the newly created position of Chief Advisor, Child Health in December 1997.

He is a specialist paediatrician with a particular interest in community child health. Prior to joining the Ministry he was the National Paediatrician for the Plunket Society.

Dr Janice Wilson - Director of Mental Health

Janice Wilson holds the dual positions of Director of Mental Health and Chief Psychiatric Advisor.

Prior to joining the Ministry, Janice was Manager of Mental Health Services for the Wellington Area Health Board. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.