

Monday, March 3, 2025 at 10:16:32 New Zealand Daylight Time

Subject: Fw: Hauora Taiwhenua Newsletter February 2025
Date: Monday, 3 March 2025 at 10:06:54 AM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: Mary Morrissey | PMAANZ Chair
To: Carole Unkovich | PMAANZ Admin
Attachments: Outlook-ljgz5buo.png

Another one for our website please

Ngā mihi / Kind regards

He tauākī whakamaunga atu = "A declaration to climb that mountain"

Mary Morrissey

From: Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network <communications@htrhn.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2025 3:52 pm
To: Mary Morrissey | PMAANZ Chair <chair@pmaanz.org.nz>
Subject: Hauora Taiwhenua Newsletter February 2025

HAUORA TAIWHENUA NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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Kia ora tātou

Well, what a difference a month can make in the ever-changing world of health leadership in New Zealand! We are seeing the 'guard' changing in the roles of Minister, Director General of the Ministry of Health, and the CEO of Health NZ, while many second-tier management

positions in these agencies are also in flux.

It reminds me of a quote from Willowshade in Monty Python's movie 'Holy Grail',

"When I first came here, this was all swamp. Everyone said I was daft to build a castle on a swamp, but I built it all the same, just to show them. It sank into the swamp. So, I built a second one. That sank into the swamp. So, I built a third. That burned down, fell over, then sank into the swamp. But the fourth one stayed up. And that's what you're going to get, Lad, the strongest castle in all of England."

Dr Grant Davidson

Hauora Taiwhenua

Chief Executive

Let's hope that Minister Brown represents the fourth iteration of trying to get the health reforms right, and we end up with the best health system in all of the Western world!

The only thing that is staying constant among the current leadership churn is the health needs of our communities. Congratulations to all of you who continue to focus on this need and provide excellent health services in our rural areas. Our team here are constantly in touch with rural practices and communities and hear inspiring stories of amazing outcomes being achieved across New Zealand. Looking at the programme that has been developed for our upcoming National Conference in Christchurch in May, I can see that there will be other outstanding stories of how small and effective primary care teams are managing their limited resources to do stunning work. We need to collectively hear those stories to remind ourselves that we are making a positive difference. I hope many of you will prioritise some time to come to this event and share time and stories with your peers.

A major event for us recently was hosting a Rural Māori Health Summit at Pipitea Marae in Wellington. With the health outcomes of rural Māori clearly indicating that the biggest health equity issues are for this demographic, we wanted to understand what was currently being done to work towards the aspirational goals recorded in the Rural Health Strategy and Pae Tū: the Māori Health Strategy. We were impressed with the number of people who gave generously of their time to share their thoughts on what is currently happening, and what needs to happen, to make a better future for all New Zealanders. Minister Doocey (Assoc Min Health – Rural, Minister Mental Health) clearly acknowledged that issues exist and, along with Minister of Rural Communities Mark Patterson, that the health of rural communities is vital to us as a country. Growing our primary and tourism industries can't happen without a vibrant rural workforce.

Minister Doocey challenged us to come to him with ten key actions that he could focus on to make a difference. He also challenged us to, 'give any messages to him straight!' He wants to hear things as they are. The summary of the day is contained in this newsletter – and if we achieve the actions we have listed, the health outcomes of all people in rural communities will be enhanced.

We are currently working with the Minister's office to hopefully arrange a number of visits to rural areas so that some of you can hear directly from the Minister and Health NZ staff, and tell him directly what your thoughts are for opportunities to effect positive outcomes. As we learn more I will share that with you.

We want to share inspirational stories through this newsletter. If you identify a programme, a person, or a team of people, that is making a real difference in the health and wellbeing of the community you are part of, please let us know. Our communications team are keen to work with you to help tell that story so that others can learn and be energised.

Ngā mihi nui
Grant

**Advocacy
Work**

**Membership
Benefits**

**Current
Vacancies**

Rural Māori Health Summit: Summit Findings Presentation

Hauora Taiwhenua and Te Rōpū Ārahi are pleased to share the findings from the Rural Māori Health Summit, held on February 17th at Pipitea Marae. This presentation outlines the key insights from the Summit, including the impact of government policies on rural Māori health, ongoing challenges in healthcare access, and the critical need for Māori-led solutions.

The findings highlight both progress and areas requiring urgent action to ensure whānau in rural communities can live longer, healthier lives. We invite you to explore the full presentation and join

us in advocating for meaningful change.

Marie Daly
GM Advocacy

[Click Here for Rural Māori Health Summit 2025 Findings](#)

marie.daly@htrhn.org.nz

Update from our Clinical Director

The summer weather coming back reminds me that even when your health leadership is in tatters, you can always make hay somewhere. Our need for high-quality rural

healthcare is steadfast, and our clinicians continue to provide it.

There are a number of highlights for me in the first quarter of this year:

- The first proper hui for the rural clinical health network was chaired by Neta Smith and Jo Scott-Jones, with a clear focus on reducing variance and improving coordination of care.
- Strong presence and message at the Rural Māori Health Summit last week to reiterate our priority for rural Māori.
- Confirmation of the program for the rural health conference May 1-3 and an opportunity for us to share, learn and laugh.
- Supporting the ongoing work around rural and unplanned care that Marie and the HealthNZ team are working hard on.
- Shared work around the opportunities for innovative supervision options for GP training and IMG provisional registration.

Jeremy Webber
Clinical Director Rural
Health

I continue to be engaged in the mahi around aeromedical service review and rural hospital training and frequently connect with stakeholders across HealthNZ, Manatū Hauoroa and the college. As always please reach out to me by phone or email with your thoughts/opinions/criticism to continue to build our rural health sector.

jeremy.webber@htrhn.org.nz

Satellite internet: Improving healthcare delivery in rural New Zealand

We're excited to have John MacAskill-Smith, CEO of Spark Health, deliver the Pounamu Sponsor Address at the National Rural Health Conference. John, a champion of digital health innovation, has written the article below, where he explores the challenges of unreliable internet in rural communities and the crucial role of satellite technology in transforming healthcare access. Don't miss his valuable insights on how technology is reshaping rural healthcare!

Some rural and remote regions of New Zealand are still experiencing unreliable internet connections. If you're a healthcare provider trying to keep your rural community well, this can severely disrupt services and impact on people and patients' health and wellbeing. If you're a person living rurally with a complex health condition this can make things really challenging.

Approximately 20% of Kiwis live rurally, where accessing healthcare is already a challenge¹. Reliable connectivity is an essential component of timely care delivery, effective monitoring, medical records accessibility, and collaboration among healthcare professionals. Without stable internet, patients risk delays in treatment and diagnostics, leading to poorer health outcomes.

Reliable connectivity when traditional infrastructure fails

The Ministry for the Environment projects extreme weather events to increase in frequency and severity in the coming years, with adverse impacts on New Zealand's infrastructure and communities². These events, including storms and flooding, can disrupt traditional internet infrastructure, further isolating rural areas. Satellite internet provides the solution to this growing issue, offering high-speed, low-latency internet connections, so healthcare providers in these regions can continue to operate even when traditional infrastructure fails.

Critical connectivity for continuity of care

Satellite internet is especially important during emergencies. It allows rural healthcare facilities to maintain connectivity and continuity of care when natural disasters or network failures occur. Additionally, mobile health teams benefit from robust, portable internet solutions that enable real-time communication and access to critical patient data. With a global market growth projection of 6.9% annually, rural healthcare services around the world are seeing the value of satellite connectivity in service accessibility and delivery.

In partnership with [Starlink](#) and [Netlinkz](#), we are thrilled to be able to deliver satellite internet and enhance access to healthcare in even the most isolated communities.

We are actively working with Health New Zealand and Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network to identify and work with communities that are challenged with variable connectivity. We are currently supporting mobile providers with mobile Starlink that is connected to advanced telehealth monitoring and diagnostic equipment, in other areas we are bringing specialist hospital services closer to home enabling pre and post procedural care.

As we develop these sites, we will alongside our partners start to share the outcomes we are achieving – it's exciting to have

the technology enabling greater equity in such a clear way for individuals and communities.

1. Te Whatu Ora – Rural Health Strategy Oct 2023: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2023-07/rural-health-strategy-oct23-v2.pdf>
2. Stats NZ – New report highlights pressures on Aotearoa New Zealand's climate: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/new-report-highlights-pressures-on-aotearoa-new-zealands-climate>
3. Grand View Research – Healthcare Satellite Connectivity Market Size Report, 2030: <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/healthcare-satellite-connectivity-market>

John Macaskill-Smith

Chief Executive

John is CEO of Spark Health – focused on supporting and spring boarding clinical digital innovation across the sector: connecting people and systems.

John has a broad background and many success stories leading change and transformation in the health sector. John has experience across the spectrum – Government, MoH/HFA NGO: leading one of New Zealand's largest PHO over 5 DHBs with a massive rural/regional high need population; Clinical start-ups – Tend and Equine Health, and internationally in the UK, US and the Middle East. He has been responsible for major innovations introducing business, technology and clinical changes that have spread to national and international adoption.

John is also involved in governance roles across New Zealand and in a number of international settings across health, animal health, IT and education.

National Rural
Health
Conference
2025

Pounamu
Sponsor Address
| 11:10 AM,
Friday 2 May

Mobile Health Group | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarships

Recipients 2025

We're proud to celebrate **Lucas Hassall, Adriana Savage, Kaia Silva and Judy Kaheta** as the recipients of the **Hauora Taiwhenua | Mobile Health Group Scholarship**. These outstanding students have demonstrated a strong commitment to rural health and will play a vital role in shaping the future of healthcare in rural communities.

Find below a brief introduction to their plans for study and what the year holds for them! Congratulations all.

Lucas Hassall

My name is Lucas Hassall I am honoured to be a recipient of this scholarship. I am currently studying First Year Health Science at the University of Otago. I'm extremely excited to learn all the new material that is presented and to then use them to better myself and get into the 2nd year medical school program. This scholarship has enabled me to focus a lot more on my studies as it has levitated the financial strain that was lingering over me and for that I am forever grateful!! Thank you so much!

Adriana Savage

Kia ora! I have just begun an exciting new journey as I start studying Nursing at Otago Polytechnic, and I couldn't be more thrilled! This course feels like the perfect fit for me as I've always had a deep passion for helping others and making a tangible difference in people's lives. The hands-on clinical experience that comes with this program is something I'm especially excited about – I can't wait to apply what I learn in the classroom to real-world situations and develop the practical skills needed to provide excellent patient care. This scholarship means so much to me as it will ease some of the financial stress, allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies without worrying about balancing work. It's a huge step toward my dream of becoming a registered nurse, and I feel so grateful for the opportunity. In the future, I aspire to work in a variety of

healthcare settings, constantly learning and growing as I provide care to those in need. I'm excited to see where this journey takes me and to one day make a lasting impact in healthcare!

Kaia Silva

My name is Kaia Silva and I am from Hawera, Taranaki. This year I will be attending the University of Auckland, studying biomedical science with a specialisation in optometry. I'm super excited to be learning new things, facing new challenges, and exploring my chosen field. University has been something I have been looking forward to for a while, and I am thrilled to have these amazing opportunities. My overall goal for the future is to own my own optometry practice. I have a passion for business, so combining this with my studies would be fantastic. This scholarship is going to be incredibly helpful towards funding my time at university. I am immensely grateful to have received this money, as it will be a big help in alleviating the financial stress of this year.

Judy Kaheta

Kia ora e whānau, ko Judy Heta tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Ngai Takoto, Ngāti kahu ki Whangaroa me Waikato iwi. I am currently studying a certificate in health science at the University of Auckland and hope to pursue a career in medical imaging. I am super excited about this new journey ahead of myself. It's contributing to the hauora of my people and most importantly my whānau; something I hold close. I have a keen interest in anatomy and can't wait to see what the future has installed for me. Receiving the Hauora Taiwhenua scholarship has majorly helped with financial burdens and the living cost here in tāmaki. It has enabled me to focus on my studies and learn the new systems at university! Ngā manaakitanga.

National Rural Health Conference **2025**

Earlybird Registration

Earlybird registration for the National Rural Health Conference 2025 is still open—don't miss out!

Secure your spot before 17 March to take advantage of discounted rates.

Special pricing is also available for Hauora Taiwhenua members.

Get in quick and register today

Register Now!

Programme Now Live!

The programme for the National Rural Health Conference 2025 is now live!

Check out the full schedule, plan your sessions, and explore the exciting lineup of speakers and workshops.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and be part of shaping rural health. View the

programme now:

[VIEW HERE](#)

Nominations are now open for the Peter Snow Memorial Award 2025

The Peter Snow Memorial Award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to rural health in Aotearoa New Zealand. Established to celebrate dedication, leadership, and innovation, this award shines a light on those who have gone above and beyond to support the wellbeing of rural communities.

Nominations for the 2025 award are now open. This is your chance to acknowledge someone whose work has made a real difference in rural health. Help us celebrate those driving positive change in our rural communities.

[Submit your nomination here](#)

2024 Peter Snow Award Recipient, Dr Kyle Eggleton

[news and media](#)

Rural Māori Health Summit Update

On Monday, 17th February, the Hauora Taiwhenua Board co-hosted a Rural Māori Health Summit alongside our Te Tiriti partners, Te Rōpū Ārahi. We were joined by a number of our members, Māori health stakeholders, senior health officials and politicians.

Our strength as public advocates for rural health was demonstrated by the line-up of keynote speakers invited to share updates on progress toward improving Māori health in rural communities. Ministers Matt Doocey and Mark Patterson underscored the importance of this kaupapa by attending despite it being a sitting day in Parliament.

The Hon. Mark Patterson, Minister for Rural Communities, opened the Summit by acknowledging—both personally and politically—the urgent need to support frontline healthcare professionals. He did not shy away from the reality that the health system is under immense stress. Expressing his deep admiration for rural healthcare workers, he emphasised their critical role as both the first and last line of defence.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

John Campbell: Will Simeon Brown fix our 'dire' health system?

TVNZ's John Campbell takes a deep dive into the state of our health system—highlighting the urgent challenges faced in healthcare. Our Chief Executive, Dr Grant Davidson, shares powerful insights on the realities for rural communities

and health professionals.

Those at the vanguard of the country's healthcare system say new Health Minister Simeon Brown has inherited a broken, 'systemically racist' and woefully under-funded machine that drives its workers overseas and results in premature deaths of New Zealanders, especially Māori. *John Campbell* reports.

New Zealand's health system is under-funded, systemically racist and inequitable, its workers are stressed, morale is low, and "we're not doing the right things, for the right people, at the right times, or in the right places."

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

GPs: Have Your Say in the ACC Provider Segmentation Survey

ACC is inviting General Practitioners to participate in the **Provider Segmentation Survey**, an important opportunity to share insights and help shape how ACC engages with the sector.

GPs play a crucial role in ensuring patients can access the ACC Scheme, and your feedback will directly contribute to improving processes and support for healthcare providers.

To make participation easier, ACC has created a **direct survey link** for you to complete:

[Click here to take the survey](#)

We encourage all GPs to take a few moments to provide their input. Your voice matters in shaping the future of ACC's engagement with healthcare providers.

Feel free to share this survey with your networks!

Hīkoi for Health: A People's Inquiry into Healthcare Reform in New Zealand

Dr. Art Nahill, a general physician based in Auckland, and Dr. Glenn Colquhoun, a GP and poet, are embarking on an extraordinary journey in late April—*Hīkoi for Health: A People's Inquiry into Healthcare Reform*. This initiative seeks to hear the voices of New Zealanders, collecting stories and ideas about their experiences with the healthcare system and suggestions for its improvement. In collaboration with renowned artist Nigel Brown, who has transformed their second-hand van into a colorful and thought-provoking mobile "ambulance," the pair will travel from Cape Reinga to Wellington. Along the way, they will engage with communities, documenting the personal experiences of those who interact with the health system. The goal? To present these findings at Parliament in early May.

As Dr. Nahill explains, this journey is about creating positive momentum for reform: "We can't wait for governments to 'see the light'—we need to shine our passion and ideas so brightly they can't turn away." This grassroots movement is driven by a shared belief that New Zealand's healthcare system is in dire need of change, from growing waiting lists and overburdened emergency departments to challenges in accessing GP care.

The mobile "ambulance" will also act as a recording studio, gathering stories that will contribute to the urgent conversation on healthcare reform. After Anzac Day, the pair will begin their trek across the North Island, making stops in towns and cities to gather feedback. In May, their findings will be presented to policymakers in Wellington.

How You Can Help: Rural Health NZ members are encouraged to engage with the Hīkoi for Health initiative by sharing their stories and spreading the word about this important cause. Your participation can help bring much-needed attention to the pressing issues facing our health system and promote meaningful change.

To learn more and share your healthcare story, visit healthreformnz.org.

Join us on this crucial journey for a healthier, fairer healthcare system for all New Zealanders.

Rural Women New Zealand

Rural Women New Zealand are excited to be offering this opportunity to your communities to hear two excellent speakers (Dr Ruth Large and Jenni Falconer) discussing the benefits of telehealth and how to access it. This will focus mainly on the rural areas.

This webinar is being presented on Tuesday March 11th at 7 p.m. The access link to the webinar will be provided when registration occurs."

We were very fortunate that Ruth and Jenni, with their breadth and depth of knowledge of Telehealth agreed to be part of this webinar.

Please feel free to share with any other groups who you feel may be interested.

Public consultation on the Arms Act rewrite is open until midnight on 28 February. This is your opportunity to share your views with the Ministry of Justice on what is working in the current firearms system, what isn't, and what needs to change. More information is available on the Firearms reform webpage: www.justice.govt.nz/firearms.

Please note, you can send a short email directly addressing the points you want to be considered, as opposed to an entire submission, if that is preferable.

The Arms Act rewrite discussion document, also available on the Firearms reform webpage, breaks the Act into seven key themes and seeks feedback on each. Theme 3: Responsible possession and use includes questions about the role of health practitioners in the licensing process.

As you may already know, under the Arms Act, anyone applying for a firearms licence must provide the name and contact details of their health practitioner. If a practitioner believes their patient has a firearms licence and a health condition that may pose a risk to themselves or others, they are expected to consider notifying the Firearms Safety Authority. You can read more about this on the link below.

[Information for health practitioners | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

The Ministry of Justice is seeking feedback on whether these obligations are appropriate and reasonable.

If you would like to contribute your views on this or any aspects of the current firearms system, we encourage you to take part in the consultation.

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