

+OPINION |

Health reforms paper anniversary: Thoughts from a practice manager in the provinces

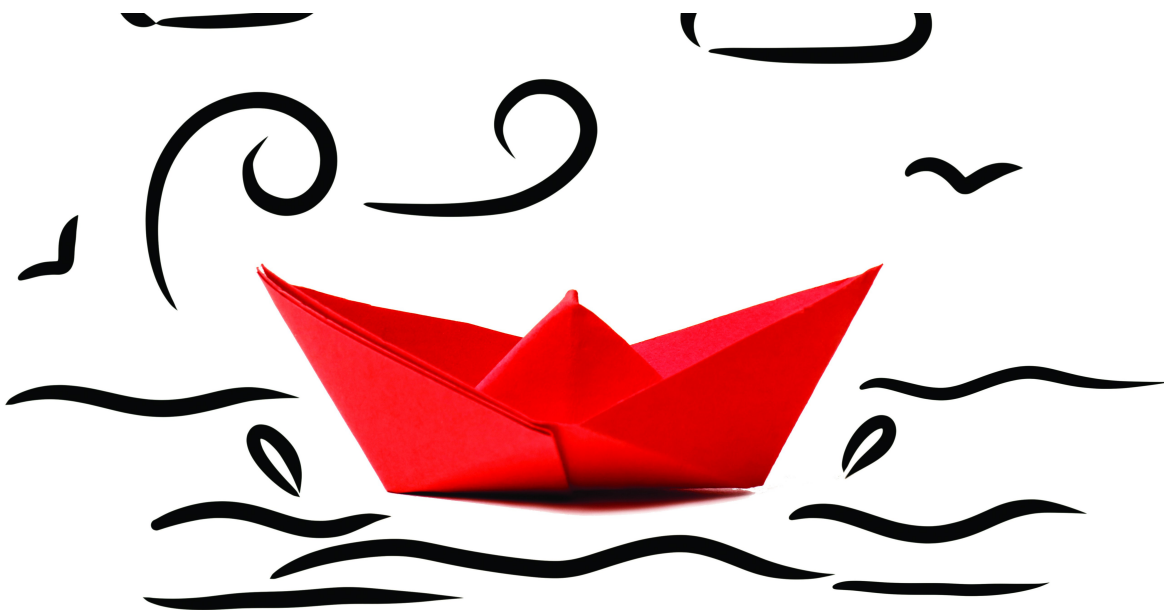


Michelle te Kira

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1 minute to Read



It's a paper anniversary for the central health agencies still experiencing the winds of change

If you had been looking to buy a gift for the one-year anniversary of the health reforms on 1 July, it would have been paper. This is a happy coincidence, considering we as a newspaper are close scrutineers of the reforms. We asked a few people in the sector their thoughts on the following questions: “What areas of the reforms are you happy with? What is an area where progress is not what you anticipated? How well do you think the reform has been communicated to your part of the health system? Score out of 10.” First up is **Michelle Te Kira**

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One main area of the reforms that stands out for me personally is that, overall, they have seen more intent from all national bodies for collaboration and recognition. The voice of mana whenua is essential for change.

So, one area I am happy to see is the establishment of Te Aka Whai Ora acknowledging our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

I look forward to seeing the valuable contribution, guidance, connection and leadership Te Aka Whai Ora provides general practice teams in navigating Pae Ora reform changes.

An area of the reforms where progress is not what I anticipated? Localities!

I understand many barriers have slowed progress but it is frustrating at a practice level to not have clarity or any direction, for a lot of us primary care frontline teams; we have lost the enthusiasm due to information not being readily shared as often as it was when we had (until last September) the Health and Disability Review Transition Unit. It is hard as a manager to get your overstretched teams excited about the locality system changes.

I hope we see more front-line primary healthcare leaders from all different models of general practice as key strategic partners included at future strategic and decision-making tables. More voices from the whole sector are required; collaboration and working in partnership is essential.



Practice manager Michelle Te Kira looks forward to receiving guidance from Te Aka Whai Ora

And communication?

I think the communication has got better but it seems to be stop/start from too much information to not enough.

Score: 6/10

Michelle Te Kira is practice manager at Three Rivers Medical in Gisborne and chair of PMAANZ

Note: A shorter version of this response is published in the 5 July issue of *New Zealand Doctor Rata Aotearoa*

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