



*The challenge of closed books in primary care access, health outcomes and equity in Aotearoa New Zealand*

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Date: Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Presentation - Lecture Theatre - GBLT1 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Or via zoom: <https://vuw.zoom.us/j/96741456161>

Discussion - Seminar Room - GBG07 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm

**Abstract:**

Closed books at a general practice refer to the situation where General Practitioners (GPs) are unable to accept new patients due to having reached their capacity limit. The numbers of practices with closed books in Aotearoa New Zealand are concerning and deteriorating, specially more since COVID-19. Some groups like Māori seem to be disproportionately affected. We will present new evidence on the extent of the problem, the reasons, and impact on health outcomes and equity. Data has been gathered through a survey and interviews across GPs and Practice Managers, as well as analysis of administrative data from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and Ministry of Health's datasets. We will end with a set of recommendations for a follow-up discussion on how to address the challenges identified in the study.

The study has been conducted with funding from The Lottery Health Research Fund 2021, and in collaboration with the Royal New Zealand College of GPs (RNZCGPs).

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