

**+NEWS |**

## **Massive spending cuts demanded in health; reduction in hierarchy**



Alan Perrott

aperrott@nzdoctor.co.nz

2

Monday 22 July 2024, 05:12 PM

1 minute to Read



Health minister Shane Reti says workforce issues may be addressed by measures such as telehealth, AI and changing the scope of practice for some clinicians

The 14 layers of administration the Government claims now exist between Te Whatu Ora chief executive and the patient will be reduced to six, says health minister Shane Reti.

Speaking at this afternoon's post-Cabinet press conference, Dr Reti says the front line must be moved closer to the decision makers.

At the same time, the structure of Te Whatu Ora will become based around four regional administrative centres with a deputy chief executive in charge of finances.

After appointing Lester Levy to a 12-month term to replace the Te Whatu Ora board, Dr Reti, a specialist GP, refused to express confidence in the previous board.

Dr Reti also says it is up to the new commissioner to express confidence in chief executive Margie Apa.

**Cabinet decision**

Prime minister Christopher Luxon said once the 12-month term was up, Cabinet would determine whether Professor Levy's term should be extended or whether a new chair and board should be selected.

Mr Luxon says the estimated overspend in health of \$130 million per month must end and he expects the sector to function within its allocated budget.

While lambasting the previous government's implementation of its health reforms, Dr Reti says he supported the dismantling of the 20 DHBs which has resulted in the ability to see across the entire sector and speak with a single voice.

Questioned on workforce issues, the minister says there is ongoing work looking at the potential of telehealth, AI and changing the scope of practice for various practitioners.

Dr Reti says Professor Levy has also been instructed to build a relationship with the Hauora Māori Advisory Board who will assist with issues around equity.

Mary, capture your time to Read, Watch, Listen or Delve by clicking CAPTURE.

**CAPTURE**

You can view your CAPTURE RECORD [here](#).