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NEWS

'Very proud' founding GenPro chair makes way for new blood

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GenPro founder and inaugural chair Tim Molloy says he stepped down from the board at the end of his term [Image: NZD]

GenPro founding chair Tim Malloy says he leaves the board of the practice owners' organisation after three years very proud of its role in raising awareness of general practices' vulnerability.

The veteran general practice leader, specialist GP and practice owner was one of three board members who stepped down at this month's General Practice Owners Association AGM after finishing their board terms.

Ten candidates vied for four elected places on the board. Angus Chambers, who became chair in June this year, stood and was re-elected to the board along with three new members: Hawke's Bay specialist GP and former NZMA chair Mark Peterson; Katikati specialist GP Victoria Jones; and Takapuna Health practice manager Bethan Rajwer.

They join existing board members Kelburn specialist GP Mary English; St Helier's Medical specialist GP and Green Cross Health clinical director Stephanie Taylor; and Three Rivers Medical general manager and former PMAANZ chair Michelle Te Kira.

COVID-19 saw the launch of GenPro pushed forward to April 2020 with Dr Malloy, the former RNZCGP president and rural general practice leader, as its interim chair and Dr Chambers as his interim deputy. He is now the only board member left of GenPro's board elected in October 2020.

Dr Malloy says GenPro has a fixed term for board members and he chose not to stand again at the end of his term to allow "new blood" to be elected, in order to drive GenPro's agenda of sustainable general practice.

He says he is "rapt" with how many practices have got in behind GenPro and "very proud" that GenPro is now a "robust" organisation representing the interests of contracted providers.

"Particularly over the last year where we've managed to raise the profiles of the issues that we confront in our sector, and the vulnerability of our sector, in both the eyes of the public but also the bureaucrats and the politicians."

"The new challenge for the next board is to translate that [raised profile] into real change and we all hope, in the context of the change of government, that that is going to happen," Dr Malloy says. He says there was a "good reason" for the incoming National-led Government to not make many promises to the sector as they had "no idea what they were going to find when they opened the books".

“So, the reality is that they are holding their cards close to their chest and hopefully, once they are in a position to understand what they are able to do, primary care will be high on the agenda,” he says.

Dr Malloy, a long-standing advocate for general practice, says he will be kept busy dealing with the “multiplicity of commercial and clinical challenges ahead of us” at his multi-clinic practice Coast to Coast Health Care.

“So I will continue to grow the organisation that we have developed across our locality.”

The other elected members who stepped down at the end of their terms were Whangārei specialist GP Geoff Cunningham and Southland specialist GP Deborah Johnstone. Co-opted board members Christchurch specialist GP Clinton Newbury and Auckland specialist GP Gerald Young have also stepped down.

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