

17th May 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Investment Approach – consultation submission

Introduction

Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand (AHANZ) is the incorporated society of professional associations that work together to promote, advocate for and support allied health professionals including those working in health related science and technical fields. AHANZ is the recognised connected voice of 30 allied health, science and technical professional associations and six strategic partners.

AHANZ exists to ensure all allied health professions are recognised and contribute to their full potential to enable New Zealanders to enjoy health and wellbeing. The goals of AHANZ are to:

- Advocate for and raise the awareness of allied health within the political arena.
- Provide education opportunities to advance allied health professions.
- Recognise and pursue innovation within the health sector.
- Foster collaboration across allied health professional associations.

In keeping with these goals, AHANZ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Health Workforce New Zealand's proposed investment approach for post-entry training of New Zealand's future health workforce. This submission has been developed by AHANZ and reflects the comments and opinions of our overall membership. We trust the comments made in this submission will be given due consideration as part of the consultation process.

About the Allied Health Scientific and Technical Workforce

The Allied Health Science and Technical workforce encompasses over 50 professions, each with their own distinct, specialised body of knowledge and skills. The workforce comprises more than 30,000 allied health professionals and students across New Zealand and represents the second largest workforce in District Health Boards (DHBs). These professionals actively work with people accessing health and disability services across a wide range of settings, including the education and justice sectors.

Whilst this workforce collectively supports patients across all age ranges and demographics, it is becoming evident that the services they provide are critical to maintaining mobility and independence for New Zealand's ageing and chronically ill population. In their practice, these professionals provide services and engage in activities which may include:

- prevention;
- assessment / evaluation;
- identification / diagnosis;
- treatment;
- rehabilitation / habilitation;
- advocacy;
- promotion of health and wellbeing;
- education;
- research; and
- leadership / management.

Allied health scientific and technical professionals belong to professional associations, abide by appropriate code of ethics and standards of practice and adhere to recognised systems for monitoring ongoing competence. In addition to have relevant tertiary qualifications, many complete compulsory or voluntary post-graduate training to hone their skills and expertise, which gives them valuable insights to contribute to this submission. They will also be influenced and affected by the consultation and outcomes of this proposal.

Investing in New Zealand's Future Health Workforce

AHANZ is generally supportive of the investment approach proposed for post-entry training of New Zealand's health workforce as this provides an opportunity of allied health, scientific and technical professionals to provide evidence of meeting the priority framework to support more effective and efficient service. AHANZ also welcomes reference to changing models of care with whole investment in regulated and some unregulated professions, which would include allied health, scientific and technical professions.

However, AHANZ has several concerns regarding the proposal. Firstly, the disproportionately high distribution of funding allocated to DHBs was disheartened as it disadvantages many allied health not working in DHBs but none-the-less contributing to the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders within the context of the New Zealand Health Strategy. With little reference to changing this basis for funding allocation, this inequity is unlikely to be addressed through the proposal.

There are also concerns regarding the security of funding, given the disinvestment to some degree annually. The contestable investment process would hinder the sustainability of each professions to continue to develop and strengthen their workforce in the future.

AHANZ would also seek assurance that there will be adequate allied health, scientific and technical representations on the expert advisory committee to ensure equal

opportunities for allied health, scientific and technical professions applying for post-entry training.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. We hope these comments have been useful. AHA NZ is happy to be consulted further on this topic and would welcome any future invitations for feedback or comment on other Health Workforce New Zealand strategy and policy documents as they become available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Wakefield'.

Georgia Wakefield
Executive Director
Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand