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## Tēnā koutou katoa

It has been a challenging time for many in the health sector, with the Government's proposed Health and Disability System reforms announced recently.

The changes are significant, and I know some will feel apprehensive about what the future looks like. While much will change, I believe there is a lot to look forward to.

These reforms provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address inequities in the health system and Te Aho o Te Kahu is well placed to make a very real contribution to this.

**He kotuku rerenga tahi**, *the flight of the white heron is seen once.*

Te Aho o Te Kahu will continue as a Departmental Agency working alongside the new proposed entities. Our current work lines up well with the new structures. For the time being, the expectation is that cancer care will continue to be provided as usual. Our key focus is to ensure current services are not disrupted by the reform process. Our mission remains the same: improving cancer outcomes for all Aotearoa.

I will keep you updated on how these changes may impact the wider work programme of the

Agency and the areas where we are providing input to help shape the future.

Ngā manaakitanga

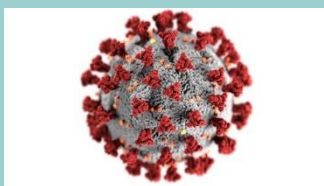
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## Equity by design

Equity is the driver behind many of the reforms and is a cornerstone of the work of Te Aho o Te Kahu. From the outset we have embedded equity into our structure - so it's not an add-on or afterthought but is at the centre of all we do. Some ways we are ensuring equity remains a key consideration:

- 50% of the Te Aho o Te Kahu Advisory Council are Māori
- 50% of the Te Aho o Te Kahu Consumer Reference Group are Māori
- We have an Equity Director with a dedicated Equity team
- We have made a commitment to [Whāinga Amorangi: Transforming Leadership](#), developed by Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations, Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Kawa Mataaho, the Public Service Commission
- All our project plans require equity analysis and sign-off
- We have an ambitious programme of Te Ao Māori capability building embedded in the personal development plans for all staff
- Being equity-led is one of the four Te Aho o Te Kahu values and, as such, will always be at the centre of our work.



## COVID vaccine advice for cancer patients

In my last update I mentioned Te Aho o Te Kahu was developing advice on the use of the COVID-19 vaccine. That advice was released to the sector in March.

People with cancer are at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and are more likely to develop a serious infection, therefore the advice supports people with cancer receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The advice also provides guidance around optimal timing to administer the vaccine for those receiving active treatment. You can find the most recent version of the advice and FAQs for people with cancer [here](#).



## Lung and Prostate Quality Improvement Forum

In March we released the [Lung Quality Improvement Monitoring Report](#). Following on, in April, we held the Lung and Prostate Quality Improvement Forum. We had the privilege of hosting the Minister of Health, Hon Andrew Little who spoke to attendees and then took questions from the floor.

The feedback from the forum was positive and we are now working on the Lung Quality Improvement Plan and final Prostate Quality Improvement Monitoring Report. My thanks to all who attended the forum, I know how tight schedules are and am grateful you could see the value in feeding into the lung and prostate QPI process.

The wider Quality Performance Indicator programme is continuing at pace and I look forward to sharing more of this work in the near future.

You can find out more about the [QPI programme here](#).



## Māori Cancer Community Hui continue

Our series of 15 Māori Cancer Community Hui got underway in late February and so far we have connected with whānau Māori in Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Porirua, Whakatāne, Levin, Rotorua and Gisborne. We have had the privilege of hearing whānau Māori share their experience of cancer and cancer care.

Minister Peeni Henare attended the Porirua hui in April and spoke passionately about the experience of Māori in the health system. Our hui workshops provide an opportunity for topics from Mātauranga Māori to Māori Cancer Leadership, the cancer journey to Smokefree Aotearoa, to be explored. Feedback from whānau is that the hui have been mana-enhancing, a place for whakawhanaungatanga and kōrero.

I would like to acknowledge all who have attended a hui - your kōrero is already making a difference.

More information about the [Māori Cancer Community Hui can be found here](#).

### Upcoming hui:

May 19 – Northland hui, Kaikohe

May 27 – Waitematā hui, Auckland

June 12 – Nelson/Marlborough hui, Blenheim

June 17 – Whanganui hui

June 26 – Christchurch hui



## First Te Aho o Te Kahu data standard published

In mid-April we formally published the [MDM Data Standard](#) after an extensive consultation period with the sector in 2020. The purpose of the MDM Data Standard is to outline nationally agreed and HISO (Health Information Standards Organisation) endorsed data elements to support an integrated approach to the collection, retrieval and linkage of high-quality, comparable data for the MDM Process.

The data standard aims to support Te Aho o Te Kahu and the Ministry of Health's vision to accelerate the shift to a fully interoperable digital health ecosystem. Te Aho o Te Kahu, in partnership with the HISO and health sector, will ensure the data standard is reviewed and updated as required through the existing HISO process.

**Time  
for  
action**

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE SMOKEFREE  
AOTEAROA 2025 ACTION PLAN**  
Consultation open 15 April – 5pm 31 May 2021

## Smokefree 2025

[The Ministry of Health public consultation on the proposals for a Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan is now open.](#)

We'd really appreciate your help spreading the word through your networks.

This consultation is the vital next step towards better supporting more New Zealanders to quit smoking tobacco and help them move to less harmful alternatives. The

Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan will build on the existing Smokefree programme.

The proposals for consultation include strengthening governance of the tobacco control programme, making smoked tobacco products less available, less addictive and less appealing, and introducing a Smokefree generation policy.

The Ministry of Health will analyse the feedback and use it to inform a final action plan, which will be considered by Cabinet before being publicly released.



Te Aho o Te Kahu

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