



General Practice Owners Association  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

**The mandated voice of general practice and urgent care providers.  
By general practice, for general practice.**

GenPro For You  
June | July 2024 Update



Working unashamedly to support sustainability and viability on behalf of general practice and urgent care  
business owners - and ultimately the New Zealand population they serve.

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## [Message from the Chief Executive](#)

Kia ora koutou,

This is a slightly delayed newsletter to allow for the Health New Zealand proposal on capitation uplift to be finalised at PSAAP.

GenPro surveyed its members to understand each member practices' views on each of the proposed changes and provided this feedback to Health New Zealand ahead of their decision.

We gathered members direction and mandate to ensure we represented the majority view at PSAAP (details of the feedback and of advice provided to the Minister have been sent to members in a bulletin).

As you will all be aware the decision by Health New Zealand to only allow for a 4% capitation uplift has been confirmed and firmly rejected!

This wholly inadequate 'uplift' to funding for general practice will create further inequity and puts the viability of many practices at risk.

The proposal means effectively that patients will be forced to pay more to fill the gap created by inadequate funding, or general practices will be forced to reduce services to stay viable. While it was clear from the survey response that GenPro members do not support the shifting of costs to patients, the right to increase fees for practices to remain viable is more important than ever.

Many patients are already struggling financially and this lack of investment by Health New Zealand will add to their woes.

Increased barriers created by affordability are going to hit the highest need populations the hardest, furthering unmet need.

And zero investment in CarePlus and Services to Improve Access - all targeted at improving access to care for the most vulnerable and highest needs patients hammers the point home.

There were some concessions gained through the process. It was pleasing to see the relaxing of fee review to allow practices to raise their fees up to the national average without being referred to fees review.

GenPro presented this concept to the Minister earlier this year based on our proposal to allow practices with lower fees to catch up without being constrained by the ASRFI.

Non VLCA practices can now increase their standard adult (non-CSC) fees to \$65 including GST without triggering a fees review. This is a direct result of GenPro's advocacy.

It is important to note that Health New Zealand decided on the quantum that will be allocated to general practice from the health budget. Their under investment in general practice is false economy and will result in delayed diagnoses, greater ED attendance and hospital admissions which will cost a lot more than if they were to adequately fund a sustainable GP service.

This clearly signals the ongoing undervaluing of general practice by Health New Zealand and reinforces the need for general practice to unify.

Together we are stronger, and we need general practice to unify behind GenPro to strengthen our collective influence to effect real, positive change for general practice owners.

Ngā mihi maioha,



Mark Liddle  
**Chief Executive**

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### [PSAAP Update](#)

Please click here ["PSAAP communique 17 July 2024"](#) to read the communique from the Chair of PSAAP summarising the discussions and outcomes of the

meeting.

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### **NZNO MECA**

Bargaining has been further delayed with the first bargaining meeting between NZNO delegates and employer representatives scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August in Wellington.

This 2 day in-person meeting will focus on sharing information and context, and then clarifying the claims made by both the NZNO and employers.

GenPro will again be representing the majority of employers (approx. 320 practices) who are party to the MECA and we will provide bulletins to ensure that we keep you informed as the process progresses.

If you are party to the MECA, you must have a representative in attendance at the bargaining meetings. If you have nominated GenPro then this obligation is met. If you have not appointed GenPro then please check to ensure that you have appointed another agent. Otherwise, you will be required to attend the meetings to self-represent. Please email [meca@genpro.org.nz](mailto:meca@genpro.org.nz) if you have any questions relating to representation in MECA bargaining.

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### **NZNO Primary Practice Pay Equity Claim**

Many of you will have received an email from NZNO regarding the reissued Primary Pay Equity Claims. All who received this email should have acknowledged receipt of the claim. GenPro has sent a bulletin to all members and subscribers that we are representing in these claims with instructions on next steps.

If you have not received this bulletin or are not sure if GenPro is your representative, then please contact us on [enquiries@genpro.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@genpro.org.nz)

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### [GPCME Conference Rotorua : 6-9 June 2024](#)

GenPro recently exhibited at the GPCME Conference in Rotorua over the weekend of 6-9 June. It was a fantastic opportunity for our board and CEO to catch up with members, and non-members to gain their feedback and discuss the current issues that are across all of primary healthcare.

This event also saw the signing of an MoU between GenPro and GPA, formalising a commitment to work together where possible to benefit the work of both organisations and strengthen our advocacy efforts. While both organisations remain independent there is now a platform for collaboration.

If you missed us in Rotorua, we will be at the GPCME Conference in Christchurch in August. Call in and say hello!

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## [GenPro Advocacy](#)

### **Annual Pulse Survey**

A bulletin with links to the GenPro Annual Pulse Survey 2024 was sent to all members and subscribers on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. It is important that we get as high a response rate as possible and ask that every member or subscriber practice that receives the bulletin completes the survey. The greater the response rate the greater the validity. The closing date for responses is Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## [Advocacy Round Up](#)

Please find below a brief overview on some of our recent advocacy activities - a version of this was sent to our members in June and feedback was that we should share this more broadly.

GenPro deliberately shifted focus last year to not only raise the increasing workforce and funding challenges faced by general practice every day, but to also offer alternatives and solutions.

We are seeing the positive impacts of this approach with GenPro board members and leadership being increasingly invited to participate in system design working groups, having regular and open meetings with decision making officials and regular meetings with the Minister.

We believe this positions us well to be at the table in the early stages of system design, where we can put forward the views, needs and solutions to help shape better outcomes for general practices and their patients.

We currently have just over half of all general practices in New Zealand within our membership. This year we have seen steady growth in general practice owners joining us.

If we can get more than 70% of general practices behind us, we will be positioned as the most influential, impactful organisation representing the interests of general practice owners.

### **MoU with GPA**

Below is an extract from our media statement issued on Friday, June 6th regarding the signing of an MoU between GenPro and GPA:

*The memorandum of understanding between the General Practice Owners Association, and General Practice Aotearoa, will allow greater collaboration to amplify the voice of a sector besieged by funding and labour issues.*

*GenPro acting Chair Dr Stephanie Taylor said that general practice is unsustainable under the current model, and government must urgently increase funding to support the rise in GP labour, operational and compliance costs.*

*“Our new memorandum of understanding will support collaboration between the only two general practice advocacy groups that are fully independent of government and can therefore strongly promote and advocate for their respective members,” Dr Taylor said.*

*Dr Buzz Burrell, Chair of General Practitioners Aotearoa, said working together would enhance efforts to ensure continuity of high-quality patient care accessible to communities.*

*“It’s important we collaborate to effectively represent GPs, general practices and their owners, and give voice to issues that impact their work and, most*

*importantly, the patients they serve.”*

*The high-level agreement comes as GP and practice owners await Te Whatu Ora’s annual statement, which sets the maximum a GP can charge based on funding allocated in the 2024 Budget.*

*Both associations agree that an effective approach to sustainable care is proper investment in general practice, while retaining and increasing numbers of GPs.*

### **Minister of Health Meetings**

GenPro has been actively engaging with the Minister of Health and senior officials over the past few months.

A part of this has been GenPro’s advice to the Minister regarding the following:

#### Annual Statement of Reasonable Fee Increase (ASRFI)

This is the method used to determine annual increases in funding. GenPro has again pointed out the significant flaws in the methodology and the underestimation of cost pressures that it produces. GenPro has provided the Minister with an alternative model that will better reflect the rising cost pressures, but also pressed the point that the ASRFI indicated for this year is still not enough.

#### VLCA

We have also provided advice to the Minister on the unfairness of VLCA, both in the inability of VLCA practices to increase fees and in the fact that non-CSC holders enrolled in VLCA practices pay the same fixed fee.

We have proposed that VLCA practices should be able to charge more for non-CSC holding patients and that the VLCA scheme needs to be revamped to reflect patient need and not constrain and limit the viability of practices working with higher deprivation populations.

#### Fees Review

In February this year, GenPro proposed a model to the Minister of Health that in most cases negates the need for fees review altogether and allows practices to set fees at the average rate for the region irrespective of percentage increase without incurring a fee review. We have advised that fee review processes are an expensive and time consuming process for practice owners, which has damaged relationships between providers and funders.

While the impact of this advocacy is only just beginning to be seen GenPro wants our members to be aware of the focus of our advocacy. We are facing unprecedented challenges and need to be heard.

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## **HR Round Up**



The next edition of HR Round Up will be released next week. This is a separate newsletter with a focus on advice GenPro has sourced for members relating to MECA issues and any associated questions.

This is available to all Comprehensive Members and MECA Subscribers.

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### **Reminder: Discounted Membership Renewal Options**

As per our April newsletter, the board of GenPro decided to discount the fee for membership for the upcoming financial year commencing 1 July 2024.

At a time when many other businesses and organisations are increasing their prices, we want to ensure that membership of GenPro is affordable for as many practice owners as possible.

We also understand that receiving a renewal invoice once a year can put pressure on cash flow. To help smooth the impact of membership renewal invoices the board have agreed that all members can choose the option of paying monthly by direct debit.

We hope that these reduced rates and the ability to smooth payments over the year will help our members during these difficult financial times.

For more information on membership types and fees please contact [membership@genpro.org.nz](mailto:membership@genpro.org.nz)

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### **Health Innovators Summit in Auckland - 14 August 2024**

“Using localism to improve health outcomes”. The Health Innovators’ Summit is a day event bringing together politicians, members of the New Zealand Initiative, professional health associations, and senior journalists to learn about innovative solutions for better healthcare in New Zealand.

It’s free of charge, with an intriguing line up of speakers. More primary care representatives in the audience could provide an opportunity for balanced debate.

For more information and to reserve a spot visit:

[Health Innovators’ Summit - Using localism to improve health outcomes Tickets, Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 10:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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### Why would you join GenPro?

- To add to GenPro's collective national voice and growing mandate and therefore its ability to make a difference
- To work towards having a single voice representing General Practice Owners in Aotearoa
- To have a strong voice in national negotiations and discussions
- To have access to GenPro's exclusive range of member-only resources and briefings

Further information on the benefits of joining GenPro can be found [on our website](#) or by contacting [membership@genpro.org.nz](mailto:membership@genpro.org.nz)

Download the GenPro membership application

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Remember to follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn for current updates



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The logo for Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand. It features the text "Te Whatu Ora" in white and "Health New Zealand" in a smaller blue font, set against a dark blue background with a subtle geometric pattern.

### Te Whatu Ora Updates

#### **Resetting Health New Zealand**

You can find a copy of the Health Minister's release "Commissioner replaces Health NZ Board [here](#).

There is a lot of fine detail still to be confirmed. This message provides more context and detail about the immediate changes.

The Health NZ reset is to ensure that every hour and every dollar we put into healthcare is adding value to patient care and community wellbeing. It is also about ensuring we are well organised to deliver the National Health Targets for New Zealanders as quickly as possible. We want to ensure New Zealanders do not wait as long as they do now to get the healthcare they need and deserve – the shortest wait is the safest wait for patients, and we need to do everything we can to reduce waiting times.

While it has been a big task to create Health NZ and bring together many entities, the job is not done. The task of continuously shifting resources within our baseline to ensure the frontline is supported is the priority – whether we provide the services ourselves or fund others to.

This next step in our journey resets management to reduce the layers of decision making between the Chief Executive and staff who support patients and communities.

We will be establishing four Deputy Chief Executives with responsibilities for regional hospital and specialist service provision and commissioning reporting directly to the Chief Executive. These roles will ensure that we are taking a joined-up approach to care in communities. These roles will empower clinical leadership to inform decision making and they will also work with partners in regions to ensure our resources are aligned to priorities.

The new Deputy Chief Executives will hold budgets and accountability for their regional hospital services and the health services we fund others to provide. This is so they can join up care across community and hospital services. Over time and as quickly as possible we will devolve more so that regions have the flexibility to deliver to their communities. For partners that work in regions and local communities, we aim to make it easier for you to work with us by having senior leadership that can work more closely with you.

We will still have national teams to ensure we are standardising and consistent where it matters most to the care of patients. The intention, however, is to enable regions to deliver improvements as quickly as they can to their populations.

Achieving improved clinical and community wellbeing outcomes will be the critical success measure, alongside staff and patient safety. We look forward to working with you together to improve the health outcomes for all New Zealanders over this coming year.

### **Stakeholders' virtual hui**

To register for our August hui, [click here](#).

### **Innovative disposal of surplus COVID-19 supplies**

Most of New Zealand's expired COVID-19 supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be processed into

alternative fuels or recycled as part of a disposal solution that balances sustainability, timeliness, and cost.

“We have been carefully exploring a wide range of options for the safe and effective disposal of expired COVID-19 products, including RATs and PPE. We are pleased to have a confirmed plan in place with disposal commencing in mid-July 2024,” said Dr Nick Chamberlain, National Director, National Public Health Service.

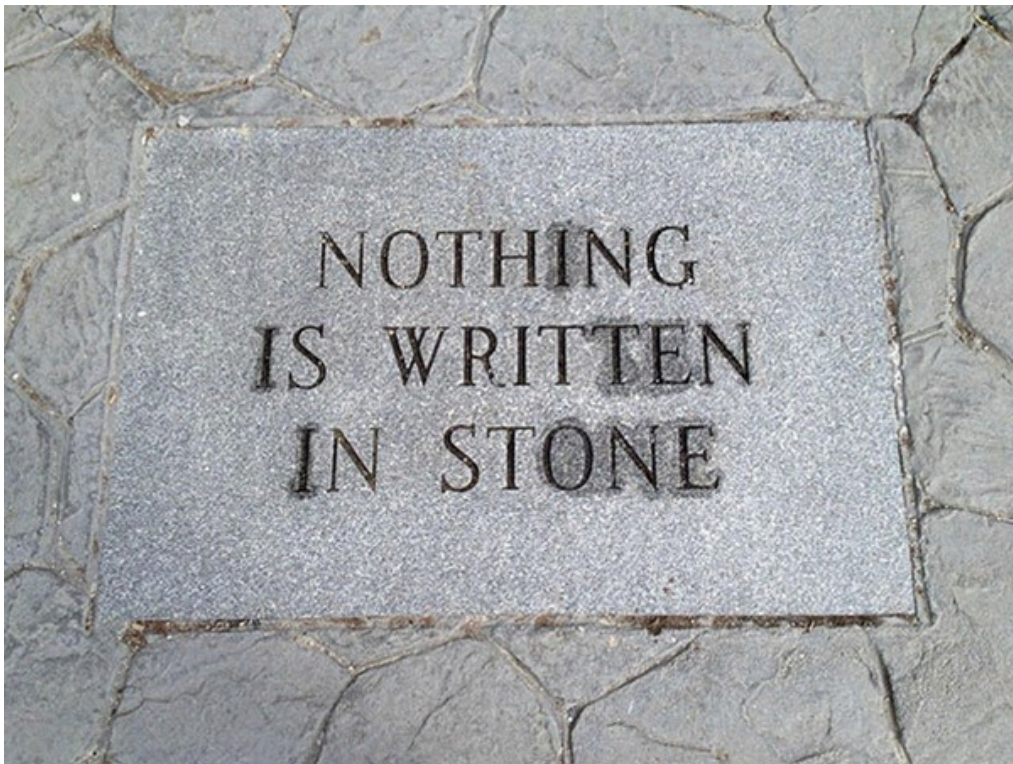
### **National Screening Unit website moved to Health NZ website**

On 19 June, the [National Screening Unit \(NSU\) website](#) was decommissioned and its content has been moved to the Health NZ centralised websites below.

- Consumer content (such as newborn screening and the BreastScreen Aotearoa sign-up form) moved to our consumer-facing website, [Health Information and Services](#).
- Clinical/sector content moved to the [Health NZ website](#).

[Read more about how the items will be processed here.](#)

**For a full list of Te Whatu Ora updates visit :** [News and updates – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#)



### **[The Final Word...](#)**

***As always, member feedback and membership enquiries are always welcomed - email [enquiries@genpro.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@genpro.org.nz)***

## By General Practice, for General Practice

- Membership enquiries/updates [membership@genpro.org.nz](mailto:membership@genpro.org.nz)
- MECA enquiries [meca@genpro.org.nz](mailto:meca@genpro.org.nz)
- Accounts enquiries [accounts@genpro.org.nz](mailto:accounts@genpro.org.nz)
- All other enquiries [enquiries@genpro.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@genpro.org.nz)

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