

## Why you should be aware of PSAAP...

### What is PSAAP?

PSAAP (The PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol) is the national forum through which any changes to your General Practice back-to-back contract with your PHO are negotiated (or worryingly, often imposed by the Ministry and DHBs).

The four parties to the forum are:

1. The Ministry of Health
2. DHBs
3. PHOs
4. Contracted Providers

If you think this sounds like it is an important forum for which you should have strong representation (it directly impacts **your** contracted business) - we agree - and this briefing provides further information on how PSAAP (We pronounce it "pea-sap"! ) works.

### What does PSAAP look like?

PSAAP has traditionally met in-person in Wellington every 2-3 months. More recently this has often occurred virtually. There can typically be any number of attendees between around 20 and sometimes up to 40 or 50. The attendees tend to be:

1. Two Ministry of Health lead representatives - usually including one Deputy Director General - plus any number of primary care policy and strategy officials.
2. Two DHB lead representatives - usually Dr Nick Chamberlain (CEO of Northland DHB) and Keriana Brooking (CEO of Hawke's Bay DHB) - plus any number of planning and funding or primary care managers from other DHBs (each DHB has the ability to appoint its own agent at PSAAP)
3. Four PHO lead representatives - usually from General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ), National Hauora Coalition and two others - plus many additional PHO Chief Executives/managers (each PHO has the ability to appoint its own agent at PSAAP)

4. Two lead representatives for Contracted Providers (General Practice owners) - these are now appointed by the Contracted Provider Caucus (linked to the General Practice Leaders Forum/GPLF) and are currently Dr Mark Peterson and Dr Angus Chambers.

An agenda and papers are circulated for each meeting. Whilst the timing and availability of papers are referenced in the [\[Protocol\]](#), papers are often submitted outside of the specified timescales.

Each meeting of PSAAP tends to be preceded by a meeting of the Primary Care Caucus - which is a separate forum through which PHO representatives and Contracted Provider representatives review the agenda and papers and seek consensus on the matters scheduled for discussion/negotiation.

### **How is PSAAP Governed?**

Such a large forum obviously requires good governance. The proceedings and action of PSAAP are governed by an agreed [\[Protocol\]](#). Read it [\[here\]](#) on the publicly accessible PSAAP website together with copies of the relevant contract and other supporting documentation.

Secretariat support and administration is provided by Technical Advisory Service (TAS) - a shared services agency for New Zealand's 20 DHBs.

The Independent chair of PSAAP is currently Neil Stiles - read more about Neil [\[here\]](#). Neil has been the independent chair for many years and is highly effective at managing these complex meetings and is well-respected around the table.

### **How are Contracted Providers currently represented at PSAAP?**

As a General Practice business owner a significant proportion of your business is determined according to the "Back-to-Back" contract you sign each year with your PHO as the funding/commissioning body. You are represented at PSAAP (for the negotiation and agreement of this contract) by the two representatives appointed by the Contracted Provider Caucus.

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