



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
February 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,

It has been another busy month on the advocacy and lobbying front. We continue to raise the concerns regarding financial pressures and threats to practice viability, and media interest remains high.

We are also pushing for further information regarding the proposal for Childhood Immunisations to be delivered by Pharmacy, with OIA requests lodged with Te Whatu Ora and Pharmac.

We hope you all managed to provide feedback to Pharmac on the proposal.

Last week, Dr Angus Chambers and I met with the new Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti, to discuss our concerns for general practice.

In particular, we wanted to make sure he was aware of the severe workforce shortages and financial pressures we are facing. We had a very constructive and positive meeting with the Minister and found him to be engaging and open to ideas. A bulletin regarding this meeting was sent to our Core and Comprehensive members on 23 February 2024.

We will be meeting with the Minister again in the coming months.

During February the GenPro Board travelled South to hold a planning day, board meeting and regional member meeting in Dunedin. It was a good turnout and great opportunity to connect face to face with some of our Dunedin and Invercargill based members. We opened the meeting to non-members too and it was great to see the invitation was taken up.

It is always a privilege to listen to our members, understand their priorities and to get the opportunity to share what we are doing. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

We will be heading to the Waikato for our next regional meeting and will provide more details nearer the time.

Finally, a warm welcome to the 12 practices (with a combined c77,000 enrolled patients and 25,000 urgent care visits) that have joined GenPro in the past few weeks. It is great to see the membership numbers growing and the voice of GenPro and General Practice Owners being strengthened as a result.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Mark



Mark Liddle
Chief Executive

NZNO Primary Practice Pay Equity Claim

GenPro recently sent out a revised offering regarding representation in the Primary Pay Equity Claim process to **non** GenPro members.

Given the process is likely to be protracted and progress to date has been slow, we have extended our offering to annual coverage – for those signing up now this annual subscription will provide representation through to 30 June 2025. This is a very cost-effective option for practices that are not Members or MECA Subscribers. Please feel free to share the below offer with your non GenPro colleagues.

Equity Support for Non-Members

We have also received a growing number of questions from members regarding representation.

We are pleased to confirm that representation in the Pay Equity Claim is included in Membership and MECA subscriber benefits.

While this service is included, you do need to advise us that you have chosen us as your representative if you have not already done so.

If you would like to nominate us as your representative or if you would like more information on this, please email membership@genpro.org.nz

PSAAP Update

Following last month's update on contracted provider representation [GenPro January Newsletter](#), a meeting of the parties to PSAAP has been scheduled for March 15. The first order of business will be to agree that Contracted Providers are able to appoint their own agents to represent them at PSAAP. From a Contracted Provider representative perspective, this is essential to enable PSAAP to be reconvened.

We are optimistic that this will be agreed and will update you all following the meeting. This is a significant step towards ensuring Contracted Providers have the same rights as other parties to PSAAP.

MECA Update

Next month will likely see the initiation of the MECA negotiation process with the NZNO, as the current MECA expires at the end of June.

Once this is initiated, GenPro will be representing our Comprehensive Members and MECA subscribers in the bargaining process.

As always, we will then support the implementation of the MECA once it has been agreed and ratified. The support offered by GenPro is available for the entire term of the subscription and includes ongoing support with the interpretation of the MECA.

If you are a party to the MECA and do not have GenPro as your representative, please contact membership@genpro.org.nz for further information on options.

MEET OUR KEYNOTES & CONFERENCE MC

National Rural Health Conference 2024

John Macaskill-Smith A/Prof Matire Harwood Dr Cath Cosgrave Dr Ratu Mataira

CONFERENCE MC Jehan Casinader

Experience the Diversity and all things Rural Health
70+ Presentations, PRIME Day, Rural Health Research and Education Day, and more at the National Rural Health Conference 2024!

National Rural Health Conference 5-6 April 2024

Join Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network in Wellington on April 5th-6th, 2024, for the National Rural Health Conference 2024, where renowned experts will facilitate the conversation on the future of rural health in New Zealand. With over 70 presentations covering a wide range of topics, this conference promises to be a comprehensive exploration of rural healthcare.

Dr. Cath Cosgrave, a leading figure in rural health workforce, presents her groundbreaking 'Attract-Connect-Stay' solution, fostering sustainable

communities.

John Macaskill-Smith, CEO of Spark Health, unveils a technological future revolutionizing rural healthcare delivery.

A/Prof Matire Harwood offers invaluable insights on health leadership from a Te Ao Māori perspective, guiding us towards equitable healthcare for all.

Lastly, physicist Dr. Ratu Mataira presents innovative solutions to global climate challenges from Ngauranga Gorge. Our conference MC, Jehan Casinader, award-winning journalist and mental health advocate, will lead us through this transformative event.

With only one month left, make sure to secure your spot now!

[Register | National Rural Health Conference](#)

Launch of public submissions: Have your say on NZ's COVID-19 response & provide your feedback on the Inquiry's terms of reference

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned have opened a dedicated online submission website www.Covid19Inquiry.nz in order to hear from NZ's about their experience of the pandemic.

Your critical insights, experiences and reflections are greatly beneficial in helping the Inquiry to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic response, and the lessons that can be learned for the future.

Submissions can be made either about your own experiences, or on behalf of a group or organisation.

Both consultations can be completed [on their website](#) and close on **Sunday 24 March 2024**.

If you have any questions, please refer to the [Questions and Answers page on their website.](#)



[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 have a 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.

[Download the GenPro membership application](#)

Remember to follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn for current updates



Patients presenting with dangerously high lead blood levels

The National Poisons Centre (NPC) and Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora is alerting healthcare practitioners to multiple recent cases of severe lead toxicity associated with the use of some Ayurvedic (traditional Indian medicine) products.

At least eight cases have occurred in different North Island locations (primarily Auckland and Bay of Plenty) over the past three months and have been reported to Medical Officers of Health. To date, most of the patients have been adult males of Indian origin who report taking an Ayurvedic product.

In light of these cases, Te Whatu Ora are encouraging practitioners to be on the look-out for patients who may present with acute lead toxicity. Unfortunately, symptoms are non-specific and patients may present with a variety of gastrointestinal, neurologic, and constitutional complaints. In severe cases, acute lead toxicity can cause seizures, encephalopathy, and death.

More information about lead can be found [here](#).

Stakeholder virtual hui - 6 March, 9.00am

If you would like to register or receive an invitation for this and future events, click here: [Invitation](#).

To check out the previous hui, including responses to questions and feedback, you can access the recordings [Te Whatu Ora](#) and [Te Aka Whai Ora](#).

Data Breach Update

Te Whatu Ora has started notifying individuals impacted by the alleged unauthorised data release by a former staff member late last year.

Included in the data release is a large number of COVID-19 vaccinators whose personal information was contained in a file that could be downloaded from a United States-based blogsite.

If you are or have been a COVID-19 vaccinator and have questions or are concerned about your information, please call our dedicated free helpline on 0800 321 671 between 8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday and 8am-6pm Saturday and Sunday.

You can also email securityinfo@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

They have a range of supports in place for anyone who needs it. Find out more [here](#)

Age extension for breast screening

Last week, Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti announced the extension of free breast screening to women aged 70-74. Further information is available [here](#)

Health Status Report published

This week Te Whatu Ora released the Aotearoa New Zealand Health Status Report 2023, a review of the current health of all New Zealanders. You can read the [2023 Health Status Report](#) 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

By General Practice, for General Practice

- Membership enquiries/updates membership@genpro.org.nz
- MECA enquiries meca@genpro.org.nz
- Accounts enquiries accounts@genpro.org.nz
- All other enquiries enquiries@genpro.org.nz

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