



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  
August 2023 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**

In my second month as CE of GenPro I am beginning to visit member practices to gauge the feeling across the motu. Thank you to those that have hosted me to date. It is clear from these visits, and from the data that we captured in our recent short survey, that primary care is facing its most challenging times right now. The range and shape of general practice is broad and diverse, yet the common theme is doing the right thing for patients and whānau.

I receive regular emails too, with requests for information through to just downloading how tough it is out there.

Workforce shortages, inadequate income and complexity of care are all conspiring to make General Practice ownership harder than it has been for as long as I can remember.

And yet I continue to be inspired by the passion and drive that owners show in wanting to deliver accessible high-quality care to their communities.

GenPro is receiving increasing feedback on the need to take more decisive action too, as we see other parts of the broader health sector take action. We will be using the data from the recent survey to raise public and government awareness of the plight of General Practice businesses.

Significant effort is also going into ensuring that we have a stronger voice for contracted providers at the negotiation table (PSAAP), with active lobbying to ensure that contracted providers have the same rights as others.

The MECA negotiations have been protracted and required a concerted effort to get to where we have, albeit an imperfect outcome. And the next phase will be ensuring that we represent our MECA subscribers in discussions with the NZNO around the proposed pay equity claim. Given the current MECA has a 12-month term, we will back into bargaining in early 2024.

GenPro is working hard to advocate on your behalf, and we can only do that with you standing right beside us.

Thank you for supporting us to support you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'Mark'.

## General Practice Funding

### Capitation uplift enforced

The capitation uplift of 5% for 2023/24 was enacted via Minister's prescription notice after negotiations reached an impasse.

We refer members to the Capitation briefing of 16 June 2023, which included information on lodging Section 14 notices and links to GenPro's cost pressure model to collate data for the fees review process.

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### Pay Parity Funding Update

GenPro provided a detailed summary to our members on 3 August 2023, which provided key briefings and information in relation to Nurse Pay Disparity Funding. These included legal advice and additional GenPro Q&A's.

Once again, if you did not receive your briefing, please contact  
[enquiries@genpro.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@genpro.org.nz)

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## MECA Settlement Update

As per our MECA briefing to our MECA subscribers dated 24 August 2023 the MECA has been ratified by you, the employers and the practice nurse workforce.

Advisory details were outlined in this briefing to assist our MECA subscribers with implementing the MECA terms with the allotted time frame of six weeks following signing of the agreement.

While the agreement is yet to be signed it is a good time to review the information in preparation for implementation.

Email [membership@genpro.org.nz](mailto:membership@genpro.org.nz) if you would like more information about becoming a GenPro MECA subscriber.

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## 2023 Election Manifestos

As we approach the election, GenPro is collecting information from our members that will enable us to advocate on our members behalf. All information gathered will be aggregated and the data will be anonymised.

We believe the bigger the voice the greater the impact.

As part of our political advocacy, we will be releasing the results of the recent survey imminently and will also provide a draft manifesto focusing on the key issues.

We will be sure to keep you updated on progress.

As always, your feedback and questions are welcomed.

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## GenPro Board Vacancies

A final call has been sent for GenPro Board Nominations.

Nominations can be submitted by paid-up GenPro members (excludes MECA-only subscribers) who may nominate individual business owners, partners or perhaps a directly employed member of staff, such as a Practice Manager or CEO.

Close date for receipt of fully completed nomination and acceptance forms is **Thursday, 31 August 2023**.

Following this process, ballot papers, voting rules and candidates supporting information will be issued to GenPro members.

Email [enquiries@genpro.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@genpro.org.nz) if you need additional information or forms.

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## Mental Health Awareness Week - Five Ways, Five Days

Life has been a rollercoaster lately, with stress and overwhelm hitting everyone from all angles. That's why MHAW are bringing you the Five Ways to Wellbeing, to provide a set of proven tools to boost our mental health.

The Mental Health Foundation and Te Whatu Ora will be asking Kiwis to utilise the [Five Ways to Wellbeing](#) to improve their wellbeing during this year's [Mental Health Awareness Week \(MHAW\)](#) - 18-24 September. This is aimed to help Kiwis understand what boosts their wellbeing and improves mental health.

Free resources and packs are now available to [order and download](#). The resources are designed to help you, your whānau and your colleagues learn about the Five Ways to Wellbeing and put them into practice.

Events will be happening around the country during the week alongside a number of online events. You can keep track of them on the [What's On Calendar](#).

Helpful Links:

- [Mental Health Awareness Week \(MHAW\) 18-24 September](#)
- [Mental Health Foundation](#) - Campaign

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### [Subscribing to GenPro's Newsletters](#)

To ensure that you receive our monthly newsletters, please add "enquiries@genpro.org.nz" to your favorites, so our communications don't get redirected to your junk mail or spam.

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### [Come and see GenPro at Conference](#)



We recently attended the GPCME Conference in Christchurch. It was fantastic catching up with all our members face- to-face and also meeting new people. So much knowledge shared.

We will be at the PMAANZ conference in September, please come over and say hello and we can share information about the benefits of membership.

- PMAANZ Christchurch 14 - 16 September.

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### Changes to COVID-19 settings

The Prime Minister announced on 14 August 2023, changes to New Zealand's COVID-19 health settings. From 11.59pm on Monday 14 August, the last remaining mandatory COVID-19 public health requirements for a 7-day isolation period for people testing positive for COVID-19, along with the wearing of face masks for visitors to healthcare and disability facilities, will be removed. Link to [media release here](#).

The wearing of facemasks by visitors in healthcare settings and continuing to isolate if positive for COVID-19 are still being strongly recommended. These remain an important way that we can prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

Key messages around recommendations for isolation and mask wearing for visitors to health and disability care settings have been developed for your information and can be viewed [here](#). To support those of you who may receive queries from the public about what these changes mean for them, this set of [FAQs](#) might assist.

To support these changes, Te Whatu Ora is updating its guidance materials, which are available on their website as outlined below.

Te Whatu Ora has developed [national mask use and visitor guidance for hospitals and other health and disability care settings](#). The expectation is that hospitals and other health and disability care providers will use this guidance to set their own policies for visitors wearing facemasks on their premises.

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### **Partners in Primary and Community Updates**

**Horowhenua: a case study in inclusivity and empowerment video**

LINK: [Video - Abbe Anderson reflects on walking through the Horowhenua community exhibit](#)

### **COVID-19 Model of Care Changes from 1st October 2023**

Presentation about the forthcoming COVID-19 Model of Care changes has been distributed - click [HERE TO WATCH](#) using password: careinthecommunity

**Two Q&A events will also be held:**

1. Thursday, 31 August: 6.00pm to 6.45pm ([Teams Live - join here using this link](#))

2. Wednesday, 6 September: 6.00pm to 6.45pm ([Teams Live - join here using this link](#))

### **Evaluation of Youth Access and Choice**

The findings will be shared with the providers of the Youth PMHA services. The final report will be made publicly available on the Access and Choice - Wellbeing Support website by late August. The team will develop a plan for continuous service improvement based on the key recommendations and through harnessing what is working well.

LINK: [Access and Choice Website](#)

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### **Immunisation Update**

#### **Quarterly shingles email to 65-year-olds**

A nationwide email communication will be sent to approximately 9,000 65-year-olds about being immunised against shingles. The target audience includes eligible people contactable via email who have recently turned 65 (to raise awareness) or are soon to turn 66 (as a reminder).

This is the start of a regular quarterly email that will reach people as they 'age-in' and encourage them to book and receive their two free doses of vaccine.

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### **Storing Patient Identity Information**

Te Whatu Ora recently sent out advice on storing patient eligibility and identity documentation as part of the patient enrolment process. Click here for the [Advice on storing patient identify information.](#)

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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 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](mailto:membership@genpro.org.nz).

[Download the GenPro membership application](#)

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### The Final Word...



Thank you again to all our members for your response to the recent survey. We appreciate how busy you all are, but we will be putting this data to very good use in supporting our advocacy efforts.

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## 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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