

Advocacy Priorities 2023-2024

The future state the Council of Hauora Taiwhenua want to advocate for over the coming year 2023 - 2024

Addressing the rural health workforce crisis

- A National Interprofessional School of Rural Health is operating in Aotearoa supporting a “for rural, by rural, in rural approach”. This includes:
 - Increased placements in health training programmes targeted at rural-focussed students
 - Nationally coordinated placements
 - Greater access to student placements in rural areas
 - Funding support for teaching and supervision
 - Funding of training infrastructure in localities
- Rurally based training to upskill people in their roles is available to all health professionals at a local level (e.g. healthcare assistants trained as qualified kaiāwhina)
- A specific Rural Health Workforce Strategy is developed that will meet the needs of rural as opposed to trying to make urban-centric workforce plans fit a very different setting. This plan will ensure there are adequate health professionals, short and long term, and that it deals with the training of new workers and retention of the existing rural workforce.
- Specialist Colleges and Councils (e.g. Nursing Council) collect and report health workforce data that reflects the geographic location of their members based on the GCH.

Achieving equitable outcomes for rural communities

- Government agencies’ policies and implementation plans reflect ‘rural’ as a priority population.
- Rural communities have reliable, and affordable access to a broad range of diagnostics services in their locality.
- Rural communities have access to realistic and accessible support for travel and accommodation to regional or national specialist services.
- Rural communities are funded to have effective and resilient crisis response processes in place that ensure health outcomes can still be achieved in times of emergency such as climatic events.

Increasing our influence on rural Māori health outcomes

- Māori health data is analysed according to the GCH to inform advocacy and policy development to achieve equity.
- Te Aka Whai Ora has established a team that works with Hauora Taiwhenua and our Tiriti partners to ensure rural Māori are factored into all policy and implementation decisions.

Monitoring rural health system performance and holding agencies to account for them

- Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora and Manatū Hauora provide health system data / outcomes filtered by GCH location of patients.
- Our advocacy is supported by evidenced-based rural data using GCH boundaries wherever possible, developed in partnership with members and other agencies.

Equitable funding for rural health services

- Funding for general practices, and other health services, in rural communities is sustainable (taking into account small, dispersed rural populations and deprivation levels of those in rural communities) and multi-year to allow planning to occur.
- NGO/Māori Health Provider and Te Whatu Ora Hospitals are funded at the same level for equivalent services.
- Rural communities have reliable access to unplanned, urgent, and emergency care services that are clinically and financially sustainable.

Ensuring everyone living in rural and remote communities has unrestricted access to the digital technology they need to access care

- Connectivity is considered a ‘core service’ by Government, alongside electricity, water and roading, for rural communities; especially in times of crisis.
- Funding is available for the establishment of community-based hubs to allow access to internet-based services i.e. access to online information; telehealth consultations resourced with equipment that support digital diagnostic tools.
- Rural communities’ costs for broadband connections and mobile connectivity, including data, are the same as for urban communities.

Developing our organisation capacity to build strength and resilience in our work

- Te Whatu Ora continues to contract Hauora Taiwhenua for key rural workforce needs (e.g. locums services, school health careers promotions) to provide a high quality service.
- Te Whatu Ora contracts are multi-year and inflation adjusted to allow planning and security of provision.
- Manatū Hauora, Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora value and actively support Hauora Taiwhenua to provide coordinated rural input and advice to health policy and implementation plans.



NGĀ TAUMATA | OUR CHAPTERS



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Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network



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**Students of Rural Health
Aotearoa / Te Whare Taumata o
Ngā Taura Taiwhenua o Aotearoa**



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**Rural Hospitals / Te Whare
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Taiwhenua**



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