

New Zealand Home Health Association Inc

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the recent report from the Ministerial Review Group looking at quality and performance in the public health system.

We have already written to the Ministers of Health and Finance to report on some key issues affecting the sustainability of home support services (see letter 4 September).

We have not had sufficient time nor information to make detailed comment on the new health structures recommended within The Horn Report.

Whilst on the surface of it, any move to rationalise structures and build consistency appears very positive, members of the NZHHA are aware that the creation of the proposed new bureaucracy is guaranteed to lead to a period of confusion and to a possible “break in transmission”.

The proposed structural changes would be beneficial to home support providers and their clients if the outcomes included the following:

- development of a strategic overview of how to meet home support requirements into the future.
- development of a robust costing model which allowed for consistent contracting arrangements, logical pricing decisions and integrated development of service specifications.
- adoption of a national standard
- a national commitment to workforce development within the home support workforce – eg the development of an effective career pathway, consistently funded training.

We are encouraged that, on page 48 in the report, Disability Support Services and Services for Older People have been identified as areas which require further work.

We endorse most of the comments contained in sections 14.1 and 14.2. We note that in the final sentence of 14.2 there is reference to the expectations of service providers. The NZHHA looks forward to assisting the Ministry of Health as it approaches this matter and as it considers other opportunities for improvement.

Jane Cumming
Executive Officer

18 September 2009