

News Release

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM

Allied health professionals welcome chance to help more in the community

Allied health professionals today combined to congratulate the Minister of Health on accepting recommendations which will mean that allied health professionals will be able to help more New Zealanders within the community.

The Allied Health Professional Associations' Forum (AHPAF), which represents a very wide variety of allied health professionals, is particularly delighted that an allied health advisory position is to be established in the Ministry of Health, to provide expert advice and lead allied workforce development.

“For a long time allied health professionals have been asking for this voice within the Ministry so that we can contribute to patient health at a policy level just as we do at a clinical level,” said Ann Connell, AHPAF Convenor.

AHPAF also welcomes fairer availability of funding for all providers to enable greater recognition and support for teams of health professionals delivering primary health services.

“It’s extremely important that we can access funding for our work in the community. The New Zealand Primary Health Care Strategy is all about working in teams of health professionals, and this will ensure that we can do that,” said Ann Connell.

The recommendations were made by the Workforce Taskforce *Working Together for Better Primary Health Care*.

AHPAF members are: Aotearoa/NZ Association of Social Workers; NZ Association of Counsellors; NZ Association of Occupational Therapists; NZ Association of Optometrists; NZ Association of Psychotherapists (Te Roopu Whakaora Hinengaro); NZ Audiological Society; NZ College of Clinical Psychologists; NZ Dental Therapists Association; NZ Dietetic Association; NZ Institute of Medical Radiation Technology; NZ Psychological Society; NZ Society of Physiotherapists; NZ Speech-Language Therapists Association; Osteopathic Society of New Zealand; Podiatry NZ; Visiting Neurodevelopmental Therapists Association; NZ Public Service Association Te Pukenga Here Tikanga Mahi (Associate member).

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