



*Nurse Practitioners
New Zealand*

Nurse Practitioners New Zealand

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Deputy Director General
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Ministry of Health
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Dr Jane O'Malley
Chief Nurse
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
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Dear Cathy and Jane,

Nurse Practitioner New Zealand (NPNZ) would like to congratulate you and your team on the recent announcement regarding changes in GMS payment to include nurses, nurse practitioners and pharmacists. We realise that this change represents a significant achievement and we wholly support this strategic direction. It also shows foresight about the direction healthcare is heading and this change will help to increase access to services for all New Zealanders.

NPNZ members have worked diligently for over a decade to develop innovative practices that have proven to be cost effective, improve quality and increase healthcare access. We have demonstrated close working relationships with our interdisciplinary colleagues and have shown that we enhance the capability of the entire team. Because of the trust we have developed with our medical colleagues, we find ourselves working more autonomously than ever before and at the very top of our scope of practice.

We anticipate that in the future there will be more situations where there is no GP on site for Nurse Practitioners working in primary care. In order to future proof the GMS payment policy it is important not to tie the GMS payments to the presence of a GP, but rather to the practice however it is configured.

NPNZ would like to assist the Ministry of Health with future policy development regarding GMS payment and any other reimbursement issues that can potentially influence the proliferation of Nurse Practitioner practice. Nurse Practitioners have the practical clinical experience that can aid policy developments that are applicable far into the future.

Thank you again for your tireless work for New Zealand's Healthcare. We look forward to future developments.

Kind regards,

Dr Michal Boyd
Chair NPNZ

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