

**Health System Planned Care Reset and Restore****Date:** 14 October 2022 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE**Minister:** Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for the Public Service**Report No:** 2022-0235

Purpose	Cabinet ORAL Item: Report Back - Health System Planned Care Reset and Restore
Date of meeting	17 October 2022
Minister	Hon Andrew Little – Minister of Health
Proposal	The Minister is providing colleagues with an update on actions to address the current backlog in electives (“planned care”).
Key issues	<p>Two key actions have occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The issuing of a directive by the Chief Executive of Health NZ / Te Whatu Ora to local and regional health leaders on immediate to be taken to address Planned Care wait lists. This directive was issued on 19 July 2022• The Planned Care Taskforce has delivered its plan and recommendations to improve planned care services to the Te Whatu Ora board on 31 August
Our advice	<p>Progress against both actions is mixed (and not as rapid as the Minister would probably want), reflecting the significant build task facing the Te Whatu Ora board and executive team, even on this high priority initiative. The immediate actions in response to the Planned Care Taskforce recommendations are sensible and illustrate the challenge facing Te Whatu Ora.</p> <p>Most are about collation and analysis of data about waitlists, standardisation and consistency of priorities and categories, and identification of regional capacity. The focus on reducing the number of people waiting longer than 9 months (to prevent or slow the flow of those waiting more than 12 months) is useful and should be encouraged.</p> <p>You may wish to check with the Minister whether he is comfortable that Interim New Zealand Health Plan (Te Pae Tata) appropriately reflects or incorporates the response to the Planned Care Taskforce recommendations.</p> <p>You may also wish to check in on progress with securing private sector capacity (taskforce rec RR92) as this seems to be the most obvious (albeit expedient) short-term measure.</p>
Author	Bryan Dunne
Title	Assistant Commissioner